

# ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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## RATES AND RATING.

RATES and rating—that is, taxation, local and imperial—and matters cognate thereto (including the Irish Church question, which, after all, is to a considerable extent an affair of ratepaying) are the great themes of the day. Everybody is in arms on the subject; everybody is complaining of the increase of rates, and of their unfair and unequal incidence. Some of these complaints are better-grounded than others; but the fact that they are so exceedingly general shows that the pressure on the British taxpayer's pocket just at present must be very severe indeed, and that the "impatience of taxation," of which a famous Minister once complained, whether "ignorant" or not, is more prevalent than it has been for some time past. Mr Gladstone and his colleagues are reducing expenditure with the view of lightening taxation; they are legislating in the hope of rendering the burden more equal, and promise further efforts in the same direction; vestries, boards of guardians, and other governing bodies are in trouble about the rates and the difficulties attending their collection; summonses are sown broadcast among impecunious householders, with very small effect so far as getting in the

money is concerned; our new rural parliaments, the Chambers of Agriculture, are meeting and discussing the topic in a variety of its phases; and Sir Massey Lopes, as the mouthpiece of the landed interest, has been appealing to Parliament to transfer certain burdens from the shoulders of himself and his clients to those of the general community—that is, to make the imperial revenue bear a portion of the charges now defrayed out of local rates. Upon this last-named proposal, and the arguments by which it was supported, we will make but two remarks at present; and these are, first, that the Consolidated Fund is a convenient resource in such emergencies, and milking this handy cow has always been a favourite, though not very successful, device with our rural friends, and is likely to be still less successful in the future than in the past; and, second, that it is not a little amusing to hear the landowners, through Sir Massey Lopes, complaining that they have never yet been compensated for the loss of protection, as Sir Robert Peel, it seems, promised they should be. Compensated indeed! for having had their property vastly increased in value since the introduction of free trade, as the hon. member somewhat naively, but unnecessarily, confessed is the fact, "Confer

a benefit upon us, and then pay us for accepting it"—is that your idea of wise legislation, Sir Massey? If so, we suspect you will find few persons out of your own order to agree with you.

To take up all the points raised in the discussions on rates and rating, in one article, is obviously impossible; so we shall at present confine ourselves to those indicated in the two bills brought into the House of Commons the other night by Mr. Goschen. One of these bills deals with the metropolis, the other applies to the country generally; and the object of both is to establish a uniform basis on which to levy local and imperial taxation—that is, to secure that whatever may be the scale per pound on rental (which is universally adopted as the gauge of a man's ability to pay rates), the scale shall everywhere operate equally; in other words, that the inhabitants of every parish, union, or county—in fact, of the whole country—shall be assessed on a uniform system, and pay upon a uniform portion of their rental, whatever that portion may be. In days gone by, when each parish was a small independent community, complete in itself, raising its own revenue and paying its own expenses, it did not much matter what deductions were made



THE TEMPLE PRISON SCENE OF "MARIE ANTOINETTE," AT THE PRINCESS'S THEATRE.





from the actual in order to reach the rateable value of houses, provided that each householder was allowed the same deductions; but of late years, when parishes were joined together and formed into unions, and local burdens, such as the support of the poor, became common to the whole union, a uniform basis of rating became necessary; and this was secured in each union by Mr. Villiers's Union Assessment Act, passed in 1862. Now it is proposed, as regards London, which was excepted from the operation of the Act mentioned, to carry this principle out; to form the entire metropolis into one union, including certain parishes which have hitherto stood aloof and have formed, as it were, unions in themselves; to institute in each union assessment committees, which shall be represented in a general board, and have a right of appeal one against another in the event of an unfair basis of assessment being adopted in any. Into the details of the machinery by which it is proposed to accomplish this object it would be premature to enter until the bills are printed. What we wish to enforce at present is the soundness of the principle involved, and the necessity there exists for applying it.

The system of governing and taxing that obtains in the British metropolis is, we make bold to say, the most complicated piece of machinery to be found all the world over. There are, we believe, some thirty-seven distinct governing bodies in existence, all levying taxes for different purposes, raised on different bases, collected (as a rule) by different agencies, disbursed through different channels, and accountable (if accountable at all) to different constituencies. It is impossible but that confusion worse confounded should arise out of such a system. It is next to an impossibility for any average householder to understand why he is taxed, by whom he is taxed, on what principle he is taxed, what he is taxed for, or whether his neighbours are taxed at the same rate as he is himself; all he knows is, that he is taxed, and that heavily too. There are, under the denomination of local taxes, first and principally, poor rates; then there are the county rate, police rates, paving rates, cleansing rates, lighting rates, Metropolitan Board rates, and we know not how many other rates. All these imposts are levied upon scales of rateable value, as distinguished from actual rental; but scarcely two of them are assessed on the same basis; and even for the same rate different bases obtain in different districts. Between the valuations adopted for the poor rate and the county rate, for instance, the disparity in the same district is enormous. In the city of London the difference in 1867-8 was £713,156; in Kensington it was £212,627; in St. George's, Hanover-square, it was £170,460; in Paddington it was £28,506; and so on. In some cases the poor-rate valuation is higher, in others it is lower, than that adopted for the county rate; but, whichever scale be adopted, it is clear that some districts must pay too much, and others too little. Then, again, even as regards the same rate, the divergencies are equally great. Take the county rate as an example, which, as being nearest the truth, has been adopted by the Metropolitan Board as the basis of the imposts levied under its auspices. The metropolis stands in three different counties—Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent; and each of these counties adopts a different basis of assessment—that is, a different scale of deductions from the actual rental obtains in each. And the same diversity exists in each separate taxing area of the metropolis. In some a deduction of 10 per cent is made; in others it ranges as high as 30 or 40 per cent. This is all the more grievous, seeing that the lowest scales of allowance are adopted in the poorer, and the highest in the richer, districts. Thus, in Bethnal-green, the householder pays rates upon about eight-tenths of his rack-rental; while in St. George's, Hanover square, he pays upon little more than one-half. And the hardship is made more intense by the fact that the poor rate amounts to 3s. 11d. per pound in Bethnal-green, whereas it is only 8d. in St. George's, Hanover-square. So that the poor householder suffers in every way, and the rich one has every way the advantage. For purposes common to the whole metropolis, such as Metropolitan Board improvements, lighting, watching, cleaning, and the relief of the casual poor, the rich man of the West-End contributes upon from 60 to 70 per cent of his rental (and that at a low rate per pound), while the poor resident at the East-End is mulcted upon from 85 to 90 per cent of his rental, and that at a high rate per cent. The same charming variety of method holds throughout the whole kingdom, though its operation may not be everywhere equally glaring as in London. Surely it is time that such anomalies were corrected, and a uniform basis of assessment established everywhere and for all purposes.

Much, however, as we approve the principle involved in Mr. Goschen's bills, and however indispensable such a principle is to a fair system of taxation, we confess that we rejoice at their introduction mainly because they are a large step towards that equalisation of local rates, especially poor rates, for which we have in this Journal so long and so strenuously contended; and it is not a little gratifying to find that this is generally admitted to be the point to which we are now rapidly tending, and to have the aid in advocating that measure of those who, when the idea was first mooted in these columns of an equalisation of rates throughout the metropolis—yea, throughout the kingdom—not merely stood aloof, but vigorously denounced the proposal. With an extract from a daily contemporary who was once a foe, but is now a friend, we shall close our present remarks. Says the *Standard*:—"That which now has to be done is to establish a common basis. Following these changes we

see the equalised rate presenting itself. The poor of London should be maintained by the ratepayers of London, without distinction as to parish. Such a system would do good in various ways. It would go far to improve the administration of the law. When the West-End has to take its share in the burden of East-End poverty a more general interest will be created in the affairs of the East-End. There will not only be a common fund and a common rating, but more of a common interest as well. As for the fear of extravagance, one parish must look after another, and see that nothing of the kind takes place. A mutual check of this nature is proposed by Mr. Goschen in the case of the assessments, each union having a power of appeal against any other. But Mr. Goschen's proposals go beyond the poor law and beyond the metropolis. It is proposed that all local taxation shall rest on one basis, and that this basis shall serve likewise for imperial taxation. Poor rate, county rate, police rate, sewer rate, &c., all are to be founded on one assessment; and Government taxes are to be levied in like manner. One bill provides for this system in the metropolis, and another bill carries the same principle into the whole of England, only by a different machinery. Both bills deal simply with 'rateable property'—that is to say, with property already rateable. But with such comprehensive measures to debate upon we may expect that further questions will arise. To use the ordinary phrase, the question will be 'ventilated'; and public attention will be drawn to points hitherto overlooked. Principles will be laid hold of, and the further application of these principles will be demanded. The propriety of an assessment based solely on rental may be disputed. The question is one of personal ability. The real principle, it will be urged, is not merely what a man's house is worth, but what he is worth himself. A nobleman may pay no more rent than a tradesman; a man with a fortune no more rent than a professional man whose fortune has to be made. Why should real property be burdened and personal property escape? Two hundred millions of income going free from a host of charges which properly belong to all alike will scarcely be tolerated. However, these further questions ought not to delay the correction of admitted errors, though we have not the least expectation that the passing of these two bills will bring us to perfection, even though we take them in conjunction with an equalised metropolitan poor rate. But it is enough to know that the present course of things is in the right direction, so far as this subject is concerned."

#### "MARIE ANTOINETTE," AT THE PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

OUR Theatrical Lounger, in his contribution last week, criticised the version of Mr. Palgrave Simpson's piece, entitled "Marie Antoinette," lately produced at the Princess's Theatre; and from his remarks our readers will have gathered a tolerable idea of the merits, as well as of the course of action, of the drama—or "historical panorama," as it is called. We this week publish an engraving representing a scene from the piece, and, by way of variety, reprint an extract from the criticism of a contemporary:—"There are historic personages who may be said to have created a literature and an art of their own, such interest do they excite among posterity. Famous in right of their sorrows, these sad celebrities attract to themselves all that is eloquent and passionate, tender and pathetic, in human genius. Such a personage, and pre-eminently so, is Mary Queen of Scots. Of what plays and romances has she been the tragic heroine—of what songs the melodious theme—of what pictures the lovely and majestic subject. Time, in her case, is indeed the beautifier of the dead, shedding a halo of romance around her follies, and making even her failings 'lean to virtue's side.' Such is the magic of the past tense, compared with which the present is but as lead in contrast with gold. 'For, indeed,' writes a famous historian, 'it is a most lying thing that same past tense always; so beautiful, sad, almost Elysian-sacred in the moonlight of memory it seems, and seems only.' To the same category, though very different in character, belongs Marie Antoinette, whose memory year by year seems to grow dearer to the world. If posthumous renown might compensate for the disesteem of contemporaries, the heroic wife of a weak vacillating King is already well avenged of her enemies. 'Weep, fair Queen!' exclaims Mr. Carlyle, with a quaint pathos all his own, 'weep on thy tears of unmixt wretchedness. No more shalt thou be loved by living hearts till a new generation has been born, and thine own heart lies cold, cured of all its sorrows.' That day is come. The thousands of swords which Burke had expected to avenge 'even a look that threatened insult,' remained ingloriously in their scabbards, for 'the days of chivalry are gone.' But Time has brought about his revenges none the less; and she who was doomed by an infuriated populace to a merciless and ignominious death is now pre-eminent among the darlings of posterity. So moves the world in bewildering cycles, making the martyr of to-day the idol of to-morrow. On the Continental stage Marie Antoinette is no unfamiliar figure, her most illustrious representative being Madame Ristori; but, strange to say, she is hardly, if at all, known upon the British stage. An English version of Signor Giacometti's drama, in which the great Italian actress performs, has, we believe, been produced with success at New York and elsewhere in America, but it was not until now that any play devoted to a representation of the leading events in the life of Marie Theresa's unhappy daughter was played in London. If in the piece brought out at the Princess's, under the simple title of 'Marie Antoinette,' the intention had been to give a stage representation of the great Revolution, in which the Queen of Louis XVI. bore so tragic a part, Mr. Palgrave Simpson would doubtless have been found fully competent to the task, for he is a graceful, spirited writer, and well skilled in the dramatic treatment of character and incident; but it is due to him to say that the play in question has no such ambitious scope. It is offered in express terms merely as 'an historical panorama of action formed of many events in Marie Antoinette's life, connecting Oct. 9, 1789, with Oct. 16, 1793; bound together with no more fiction than is necessary to give the coherence and continuity essential to a dramatic form.' Several of the most important personages of the Reign of Terror are conspicuous by their absence; and we look in vain even for the prominent actors in those terrific times as Egalité, Mirabeau, and Robespierre; but some of the most striking adventures in the closing scenes of the Queen's sad history are represented upon the stage with suitable variety and picturesque effect. The action opens impressively with the visit of Marie Antoinette, accompanied by the Dauphin, to the hall in the Palace of Versailles during the banquet of the body-guard, who pluck the tricolour cockades from their hats, and, drawing their swords, vow with more fervour than fidelity to devote themselves to her cause. We next visit the Royal cabinet, where we are introduced to the King; and then comes the fierce invasion of the palace by the mob of sansculottes, armed with all manner of uncouth

weapons, and waving on high a huge tricolour flag, beneath which the Royal family are at last grouped. This well-arranged scene brings the first act to a striking conclusion. In the second occurs the best scene of the whole play, representing the arrival of the Royal fugitives, in their coach, drawn by white horses, at the 'Gate of Varennes,' where they are stopped by the populace and subjected to ignominious treatment. Here it is that the King and Queen, alighting from their carriage, make a dignified appeal to the loyalty of their subjects; but in vain. Their subjects are against them almost to a man, and the recreant body-guard ground arms and fraternise with the Republicans. 'France,' it had been said, 'was a long despotism tempered by epigrams,' and now it would seem the epigrams have got the upper hand, 'and they are,' says Mr. Carlyle, 'not sharp and bitter, but cruel and atrocious.' Mr. Lloyd's view of Varennes by moonlight, with the lofty trees in the foreground, the far-spreading streets in perspective, the King's carriage drawn up in front of the gate, and the excited crowd ravening for their victims, makes an excellent picture, and is warmly applauded. Hence the course of events takes us first to the 'Gardens of the Temple,' where the sufferings of the Royal prisoners are brought into rather jarring contrast with the drolleries of a faithful retainer, whose good-natured levity is hardly suited to the solemnity of the occasion; and then we view the 'Room in the Tower of the Temple,' where Louis takes his final farewell of his family, the figures being grouped very much after the fashion of those in the well-known picture. But Madame Elizabeth is not here. The Hall of Tribunal, with Marie Antoinette upon her trial, is next revealed, and the play concludes with a view of the Place de la Révolution, where a crowd of malignant spectators has assembled to witness the execution of the Queen. As she ascends the steps of the guillotine, gazing sadly the while at the prostrate body of her devoted friend, Count de Fersen, who (so the dramatist will have it) is stabbed to death in an attempt to rescue her, the curtain falls slowly to doleful music, and the rest is left to the imagination of the audience."

GENERAL BALFOUR AND GENERAL RETRENCHMENT.—General Balfour, who was sent to the War Office as the best hand to cut down unnecessary expenses, retired one day last week; but, to everybody's astonishment, if not to everybody's satisfaction, returned to office and resumed his operations in the "cutting-room" a few days after. His reason for resignation is said to have been that, in the sweeping operations of the new brooms at the War Office, he found his duties swept away, and himself reduced to the ignominious position of a sinecrist. At this General Balfour very naturally kicked, declaring that he had come into the office to serve under King Storks, and not under a set of King Logs; and that, if he were allowed nothing else to reduce, he should be obliged to reduce himself. Since then it has been found that, in spite of the new brooms, there is still a little room for economising at the War Office, and General Balfour has consented to resume the stool of retrenchment.—*Punch*.

A MOTHER OF TWENTY CHILDREN.—In a remote part of the county of Westmorland there was interred, on Sunday afternoon, the body of a woman, who in her time had been the mother of no fewer than twenty children. Deceased was the widow of a tenant farmer named Park, who resided at Freston-Richard, a small township in the northern county. She married at the age of sixteen years, and at the time of her decease had only attained her fifty-fifth year. What is most remarkable, perhaps, is the fact that the youngest of the twenty children is but eight years of age, while several of the others are either grown up or married; and they are all fine healthy illustrations of the young people to be met with among "the hardy sons of Westmorland." Moreover, it is somewhat remarkable that the father died and was buried within three weeks of the mother; and on each occasion did the twenty children follow their deceased parent to the grave—twelve daughters and eight sons. It is worthy of remark that the united ages of the twenty orphan children represent 400 years—that is, by taking each child with another on an average of twenty years.

THE LANCASHIRE FAMINE WORKS.—Mr. Rawlinson's final report on the public works undertaken in Lancashire during the cotton famine was issued on Saturday. Of the total amount, £1,846,082, for which borrowings powers had been given by the Poor-Law Board to the local authorities, advances to the amount of £1,766,515 had been sanctioned up to March 31, 1868. Mr. Rawlinson describes minutely how this money has been expended, and affirms that "the public works in the Lancashire towns have benefited trade, by giving 400 miles of good roads for tracts of mud; they have further added local means of health and pleasure by providing public parks and recreation grounds, which otherwise might not have been formed; and they have also increased the rental value of house property by sewerage, draining, and so removing nuisances from the vicinity of dwelling houses, which nuisances, if allowed to remain, would have been liable to have injured human health." In another part of his report he states that Lancashire, "from being backward in sanitary improvements, is at this time probably the most advanced county in England in town sewerage, street paving, public parks, waterworks, and road improvements."

THE THIRD LORD OF THE TREASURY.—A Treasury minute relating to the duties of the Third Lord of the Treasury, dated Dec. 28, 1868, has been published, and it is as follows:—"The First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer state to the Board that her Majesty's Government had deemed it expedient to assign to the Third Lord of the Treasury, Mr. Stansfeld, certain duties, and the investigation and decision on certain subjects connected with the business of the department, which will have the effect of placing him on a different footing from the Junior Lords; and in consideration thereof they recommend that there should be assigned to him a salary of £2000 a year, and a private secretary with a salary of £150 a year. It is intended that, under the instructions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the permanent secretary should transmit to Mr. Stansfeld the papers relating to certain subjects, to be determined by the Chancellor of the Exchequer from time to time, the minute of Mr. Stansfeld on such papers to have the effect of a decision of the board. The Third Lord will, on all subjects, when necessary, communicate with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Parliamentary secretary, so as to insure consistent and harmonious action."

THE UNDERGRADUATES OF OXFORD AND THE NEW POLICE.—The amalgamation of the University and city police at Oxford has created a new era in the administration of justice at that seat of learning, as an undergraduate was convicted, on Monday, before the Vice-Chancellor, in open court, of an assault on Inspector Barratt, a member of the new Oxford force, and fined 2s. and costs. It appeared from the evidence of the inspector that he was met by three undergraduates, of whom the defendant was in the centre, and pushed by the latter off the pavement to the ground. After some delay, defendant gave his name, but not till he and his friends had endeavoured to incite the mob to a rescue. The defendant admitted the assault, but thought there was no harm in it, as he had pushed people off the pavement before with impunity, and thought the city police had no jurisdiction over him. The Vice-Chancellor, in giving his decision, wished it to be known that if members of the University committed any offence against the laws of the country, the new police had as much right to deal with them as with anyone else. As the assault committed did not strike him as a very serious one, he should only impose a fine upon the defendant of 2s. The Vice-Chancellor was assisted on the bench by the Rev. Dr. Wynter, President of St. John's, a county magistrate; and there were present the Mayor of Oxford, several members of the Council, and Chief Superintendent Head, who took down particulars; some members of the University, &c.

A PANIC AT THE WEST-END!—There is a positive panic in the Government offices westward. Several gentlemen have actually been called upon to show what they do and why they are receiving salaries! A more bewildering inquiry it is impossible to conceive. Of course, it is easy to answer such a question at the Post Office; but at the War Office and the Admiralty it is a very different thing. There is a snug little berth at the Registrar's Office, where you go to a gentleman, and, peeping at him through a small balustrade, tender him a shilling, the amount of fee stated for perusing certain documents in connection with public companies. He shakes his head at you, and refers you out of doors, next door, to some shop where they sell stamps which represent that amount of cash, in which only payment can be received at the Registrar's Office. They could not sell these stamps in the office itself. No; that would be much too straightforward—too direct and business-like. They do everything "round the corner" in public offices; so out of doors and round the corner you must go for your shilling stamp. Now, for shaking his head at you and sending you round the corner that young gentleman has £200 per annum, and "rises at the rate of £10 per annum." Fancy his having to enter that upon paper in reply to the inquiries being handed round, followed up by his examination by a roving commissioner appointed for the purpose. But let us go on with our study of the Registrar's Office. When you have been "round the corner" to the widow's, and bought your stamp, you walk up to another gentleman, who puts it on a bit of paper and initials it. That is to show he has received it. For so doing he receives £200 per annum, and rises at the rate of £10 a year. Won't he be puzzled when he comes to fill up the commissioner's form? There are a great number of this class of hard-working gentlemen in the Civil Service. They have generally got plenty to do; but all the while they are doing it, and when they have done it all day, and all the week, and for one-and-twenty years, what does it amount to? Responsibility! Fudge! Imagine the responsibility of "initialling" postage-stamps and giving change for sixpence all day long at £250 a year!—*Echoes*.



## Foreign Intelligence.

## FRANCE.

The French Government has sent a circular note to its diplomatic agents abroad briefly detailing the results of the Conference. M. Troplong, the President of the Senate, is seriously ill. Last Saturday the Tribunal of Correctional Police astonished Paris by giving a decision against the Government in an important case. During the battle of Clichy—i.e., M. Pinard's campaign on Dec. 3 against an *émeute* which never took place and was never contemplated—three people, among the many other totally innocent arrested, brought actions against the policemen who laid hands on them. A preliminary defence was made by the policemen, on the ground that they were public functionaries who could not be prosecuted without leave of the Council of State. The doctrine which prevailed in the early days of the Empire for that every policeman was a public functionary within the exemption referred to has been lately overruled by the Court of Cassation. But after the present action was commenced M. Pietri, the Prefect of Police, wishing to protect the policemen, sent a certificate to the Court that on Dec. 3 he had specially authorised all the policemen on duty to put down, by all means that they might think necessary, an apprehended riot. On the strength of this extraordinary interference with a judicial inquiry, the Imperial advocate, M. Aulois, contended that the policemen prosecuted acted on the particular occasion not as policemen, but as specially delegated agents of Government, and were therefore covered with impunity. MM. Floquet and Colfavru, advocates for the aggrieved parties, made a most indignant and eloquent protest against a doctrine which would enable the Prefect of Police to give *carte blanche* for the arrest of any number of citizens at random. The Court, albeit little used to decree against the public prosecutor, was forced by irresistible logic to do so on this occasion. The demerit to the jurisdiction is overruled, and the case against the policemen will be taken on its merits a fortnight hence.

## SPAIN.

The Constituent Cortes have been engaged in discussing a motion for a vote of thanks to the Provisional Government (who have resigned their offices), and to intrust Marshal Serrano with power to form a new Cabinet. The Republican party, who tried to prevent the motion being considered, but were beaten, opposed it with great vigour, but at two o'clock on Thursday morning it was adopted by 181 votes against 62. When the result was announced Marshal Serrano addressed the house amid frequent cheering, appealing to the minority to observe a conciliatory attitude in view of the inextinguishable principles of the majority, and promising, on his own part, loyalty, patriotism, and abnegation.

In Monday's sitting of the Cortes, General Prim declared that the late dynasty should never, with his consent, ascend the throne of Spain. He said he had joined Marshal Serrano to overthrow that dynasty, and would remain united with him in the work of reconstruction. A bill of indemnity for the navy was taken into consideration by the House on the motion of Admiral Topete.

The clergy are using extraordinary exertions to obtain signatures to a monster petition which is being prepared against the introduction of freedom of worship into Spain. The Curés make even young children sign this memorial.

Very satisfactory news has been received at Madrid from Cuba. General Dulce says that the insurrection, unless reinforced from abroad, will soon be put down.

## BELGIUM.

The Royal assent has been given to the Belgian Railway Bill, which came into operation on Thursday. During the debate in the Senate M. Frère Orban, the President, admitted that the rapidity with which the measure had been passed through the Chamber of Deputies was calculated to rouse attention abroad, and said he was not surprised that ill-informed Paris journals should consider the vote of that Chamber as an act of hostility towards France. The Belgian Government, however, indignantly rejected the calumnies that had been circulated against it. He did not personally know Count Bismarck, but was sure that statesmen would not act so disgracefully as to screen himself behind Belgium. M. Frère Orban, in conclusion, defended the rapidity with which the bill was passed on the ground of the urgency of the case.

In Wednesday's sitting of the Senate the Budget of the Ministry of Justice was rejected without debate, twenty-five members voting for and twenty-five against the Government.

## PRUSSIA.

A decree signed by the King of Prussia has been issued convoking the North German Parliament for March 4.

The Prussian Diet will probably be closed on March 6.

## TURKEY.

In consequence of the settlement of the dispute between Turkey and Greece, the Sultan has ordered all measures to be annulled which had been adopted against Greek subjects and Greek shipping in consequence of that dispute.

## GREECE.

The French Minister at Athens has announced that the Candian refugees who wish to return to Crete can obtain from the French Consuls the money to pay their passage.

The American Minister has written a letter to the Greek Government, in which he says that the United States desire most sincerely that peace should be maintained between Turkey and Greece. He has also been authorised by his Government to offer his good services to both parties in such a manner as not to compromise the neutrality of the United States.

## THE UNITED STATES.

The House of Representatives have agreed, by 140 votes against 33, to the Senate's Constitutional amendment, prohibiting any distinction from being made with regard to the suffrage on account either of race, colour, nativity, property, education, or creed.

General Schenck's Finance Bill has passed the House of Representatives. It provides that the public debt, not otherwise specified, is payable in gold, but postpones the payment till the value of greenbacks equals gold. It also legalises gold contracts. The vote was 119 to 61.

## MEXICO.

Intelligence from Mexico, published in the New York journals, announces that revolutions have broken out in several States of the Republic, and that Negrete has captured Puebla.

## INDIA.

The telegraphic news from India to the 6th inst. is favourable as to the crops in the Punjab and the North-West Provinces, which had greatly improved in consequence of a further fall of rain. Ameer Sheer Ali made his triumphant entry into Cabul on the 16th ult. It is stated that the Viceroy will probably visit the north-west frontier for the purpose of meeting the Ameer, to whom a subsidy of twelve lacs of rupees and 4000 stand of arms is to be given.

## NEW ZEALAND.

Our advices from New Zealand by the overland mail state that the rebel Maories on the east coast were attacked and routed on Dec. 2 and 3, their loss being estimated at 109 killed. As already announced, the general Government had taken steps to increase the local forces by sending an agent to Melbourne to enrol 200 constables there; but the *Age* states that, owing to the condition of the labour market, this proved no easy task. There is reason to believe, it adds, that if the New Zealand authorities made use of the Imperial troops which are at their disposal they could soon crush the rebellion. The *Southern Cross* hopes that directly means are to hand energetic movements will again be made to inflict chastisement on the rebel natives, and thinks that the sooner it is inflicted the better it will be both for the natives themselves and the colonists.

## THE TURKO-GREEK DISPUTE.

The following, according to the *Independence Belge*, is the text of the Greek reply to the declaration of the Conference of Paris:—

Athens, Jan. 25 (Old Style).

To the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Sir,—My predecessor, M. Delvannis, has handed over to me the letter you were kind enough to write on Jan. 20, together with the accompanying declaration issued by the Plenipotentiaries of the six great Powers assembled in Conference at Paris with a view to examine in a spirit of conciliation the difficulty which has arisen between Greece and Turkey.

I cannot disguise the fact that the result of the deliberations of the Conference has been received by the whole Greek nation with sentiments of painful emotion; and as a Ministerial crisis occurred, and lasted for many days, no reply could be made during this interval to the letter of your Excellency.

The Ministry to which I have the honour to belong made it its duty, as soon as it was fully constituted, to take the contents of your letter, and of the declaration accompanying it, into serious consideration.

The King's Government has seen with regret that the Minister of his Majesty at Paris could not take part in the labours of the Conference, by reason of the position of inferiority in which he was placed with reference to the Turkish Plenipotentiary.

Looking at the unanimity displayed by the six chief European Powers, and at your declaration that the Plenipotentiaries, in denouncing all controversy as to facts, only wished to lay down the rules of conduct which ought to govern the relations of Greece and Turkey, I lose no time in informing you that the King's Government adheres to the general principles of international law laid down by the declaration of the Conference, and is prepared to regulate its attitude in conformity with those principles.

While praying your Excellency to bring this adhesion to the cognisance of the Conference, I entertain the hope that the six great Powers, appreciating the difficulties of the situation, will do justice to the desire of Greece to defer to their wishes, and to contribute what in her lies to the maintenance of general tranquillity.

I take this opportunity to express my high esteem for your Excellency, and remain, &c.,

THEODORE P. DELVANNIS.

The new Ministry has issued an address to the people of Greece explaining the grounds on which it subscribed to the decision of the Conference. In substance, the reason given is that a refusal would have been tantamount to a declaration of war against Turkey, and for that the resources of Greece were perfectly inadequate. The acceptance of the conditions is, however, described as very painful for the country.

## ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

The first proceeding at the meeting on Monday evening—Sir Alexander Waugh, C.B., in the chair—was a unanimous vote of condolence to the revered president of the society, Sir Roderick Murchison, under the irreparable bereavement he has sustained in the death of Lady Murchison.

A paper "On Antarctic Discovery, and its connection with the Transit of Venus in 1882," was read by Commander Davis. The first portion of the essay was an able and accurate summary of the results of the voyages hitherto made in that direction, beginning with the Good News, under Dirk Gevitz, a Dutchman, in 1599, who discovered the land known as South Shetland. Then followed La Roche, discovering South Georgia in 1675, and Kerguelen, afterwards the Island of Desolation of Cook; the Sandwich Islands, discovered in 1762; Auckland Island, by Bristowe, in 1806; and Campbell Island, by Hagelburgh, in 1810. Cook made no discoveries, but his voyage was of importance, for from the vast space he sailed over it was known that for any large tract of land we must look further south. The expedition of Bellingshausen in the two Russian vessels, *Vostok* and *Mirni*, was in like manner not of so much importance from its discoveries as from its non-discoveries. He, like Cook, sailed through a great many degrees of longitude in a high latitude, in which no land was seen, although he did discover two islands in a higher degree of latitude than was previously known—namely, Peter and Alexander Islands, both in about 69 deg. These were discovered in 1821, the highest latitude attained by this navigator being 70 deg., Cook having previously reached 71 deg., in 1774. In 1818 William Smith, of Blyth, on his passage round Cape Horn, rediscovered South Shetland. The South Orkneys were rediscovered in 1821, by Captain Powell, in the sloop *Dove*. We next come to our countryman Weddell, an officer in the Royal Navy, who, in 1822, left England with two small vessels, the *June* and *Beaufort*, on a commercial expedition to obtain sealskins. He reached 74 deg. 15 min., 185 miles further than any navigator before him. Whatever may be the extent of future discoveries, there can be no doubt the name of Weddell will ever hold its own for gallantry. The next voyage of any consequence was by Biscoe, in 1830, also a commercial undertaking, fitted out by that spirited and enterprising merchant, Mr. Enderby. This resulted, in 1831, in the detection of that continuous line of mountain coast called "Enderby's Land," and in the year following the range extending south-west from South Shetland, and called "Graham's Island." Another expedition of Mr. Enderby's ships went south in 1839, commanded by Mr. Balleny, resulting in some islands and Sabrina Land. In 1837 and 1838 a French and an American expedition were fitted out—the first under D'Urville, the last under Wilkes, both making important additions to knowledge. In 1839 the *Erebus* and *Terror* were fitted out for their voyage under Captain Ross, to determine the south magnetic pole. In 1841 he discovered the most southern land yet known. Another voyage is on record in 1833 by an American named Morrell.

The object to be gained by observing the transit of Venus is the ascertainment, to be deduced therefrom, of the distance of the sun from the earth; the sun or the astronomers being at present some three or four millions of miles out in the reckoning. What is required for the calculation is the exact angle subtended by the radius of the earth from the sun; and, as we cannot get at the sun to measure that angle, it must of necessity be done from the earth by means of parallax or the apparent change in the position of the sun by a change of position on each side of the earth's centre, at right angles to the sun. The amount of the sun's parallax in dispute is but little more than a third of a second of arc. There are other methods; but astronomers assure us that the best is the transit of Venus across the sun's disc, observed from widely different and opposite parts of the earth's surface at the moment of the ingress and egress; and, as these transits occur only at intervals of one hundred years, when two take place in eight years it is necessary, if they are to be observed at all, to make provision. One occurred in 1761, and the last in 1769; the next will be in 1874, and the other in 1882. It is very easy to perceive that if the ingress or egress of the planet be observed from any point on either side of the centre of the illuminated side of the earth, in one case the moment of contact will be accelerated, in the other retarded, and the greater the distance from that centre the greater will be the acceleration or retardation, and that this is greatest at the extreme sides, or where the sun is on the horizon. There are two methods by which this transit can be effectually observed. First by absolute longitudes from four stations—namely, one for acceleration by parallax, and one for retardation for the ingress and the same for egress. For this method accurate determinations of longitude are necessary: an error of one second in time would vitiate the result. The second is by observing both ingress and egress from two stations—one for acceleration by parallax, the other for retardation; and the great advantage of this method over the other is that the accurate determination of longitude is not an absolute necessity. In the transit of Venus in 1882 one such station is to be found in the North American colonies, and the other can only be obtained in a high southern latitude. At Kerguelen Island the altitude of the sun at ingress will be about 12 deg., while the parallactic value is large (about 0.97). At Crozet's the altitude will be 24 deg., and the parallactic value about 0.9. Both very good stations. The *Manritius* and other islands near are only suitable for the first method, and dependent on absolute longitude. The Astronomer Royal has suggested two points—one near Sabrina Land, in 71. east longitude; the other in latitude 72 deg., or a higher latitude if possible. The first position is disposed of by Commander Davis on account of high land intervening with the view of the sun; and the second position is also interfered with by the utter impos-

sibility of reaching it at the proper time. This difficulty is not insurmountable, and can be overcome by leaving the observing party there in the summer previous to the event. Commander Davis submits that two steamers be sent out, and his tendencies are in favour of their being fitted with hydraulic propellers.

The paper was amply discussed with general approval by Captain Richards, R.N., Admiralty Hydrographer; Captain Sherard Osborn, R.N., Admiral Collinson, Sir Leopold McClintock, Admiral Belcher, Dr. Rae, General Lefroy, and Admiral Ommanney.

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

The annual general meeting for the election of officers and receiving the council's report on the state of the college was held, on Wednesday, in the College Theatre, Gower-street. The attendance of proprietors was very scant. The former president, vice-presidents, treasurer, and members of the council having been re-elected, Mr. Robson (the secretary) read the report, which stated that the entire number of pupils in the session 1867-8 had been 1057, an increase of fifteen over the previous session; and the fees received, exclusive of those for clinical instruction, had amounted to £15,061 19s., being an increase of £158 over the previous year. The reports of the school committee were very favourable. Arrangements had been made for the instruction of the highest Greek class. The increased accommodation provided by the new south wing had been found of great advantage. Notwithstanding a slight decrease in the receipts from fees and dividends, the general balance-sheet showed (owing to a saving of nearly £400 in the general expenses) a surplus of £151, against a deficit of £50 at the end of the previous session. There was a reference to the death of Lord Brougham, one of the earliest founders of the college, and its president from the beginning, and the appointment of Mr. Grote as his successor. The death of Mr. Atkinson, the former secretary, was likewise referred to. The details of the college arrangements, the establishment of new subjects of study, new professorships, lectures, &c., were then gone into, and announcement made of a donation of £1000, by Mr. Sharp, for the formation of a retiring fund for Professors, and of a legacy from the late Mr. Slade of £15,000 for founding three professorships of fine arts—one in Oxford, one in Cambridge, and one or more in London—and six fine-art exhibitions in connection with University College. It was further stated that the council had prepared a bill to alter the constitution of the college, as they had undertaken to do, and that its provisions had been very generally approved by the proprietors. The report of the hospital, which was of a satisfactory character, was appended and read. On the motion of Mr. L. Heywood, seconded by Dr. Williams, the report was adopted. The meeting was then made special for the consideration of the bill before Parliament for altering the constitution of the college. The president (Mr. Grote) having informed the meeting that amongst those who had expressed a general approval of the bill were Lord Belper and Lord Romilly, Mr. Booth on behalf of the council explained its objects, which are, shortly, to put an end to the proprietary character of the college, to provide for the keeping up of a suitable constituent body, and to enlarge the educational scope of the institution, so as to embrace instruction in the fine arts as well as in science and literature. The existing proprietors would under the new law become governors, enjoying practically all the rights they now possessed. Another object was to remove doubts as to the legality of appointing the fellows as members of the college. It was proposed further to enable the council to appoint as life governors, subject to the approval of an annual general meeting, students who distinguished themselves after leaving the college, persons distinguished in literature and art, or in public life, or who rendered great service to the cause of education; those who rendered special services by gifts or otherwise to the college, and persons representing them; and besides these there would be the existing proprietors, who would have the right to nominate successors or transferees. He added that the bill, having been submitted to the proprietors generally, had received their approval in the proportion of about ten to one. After some discussion on points of detail a resolution approving of the bill was submitted and carried.

## A PUBLIC MEETING AT ATHENS.

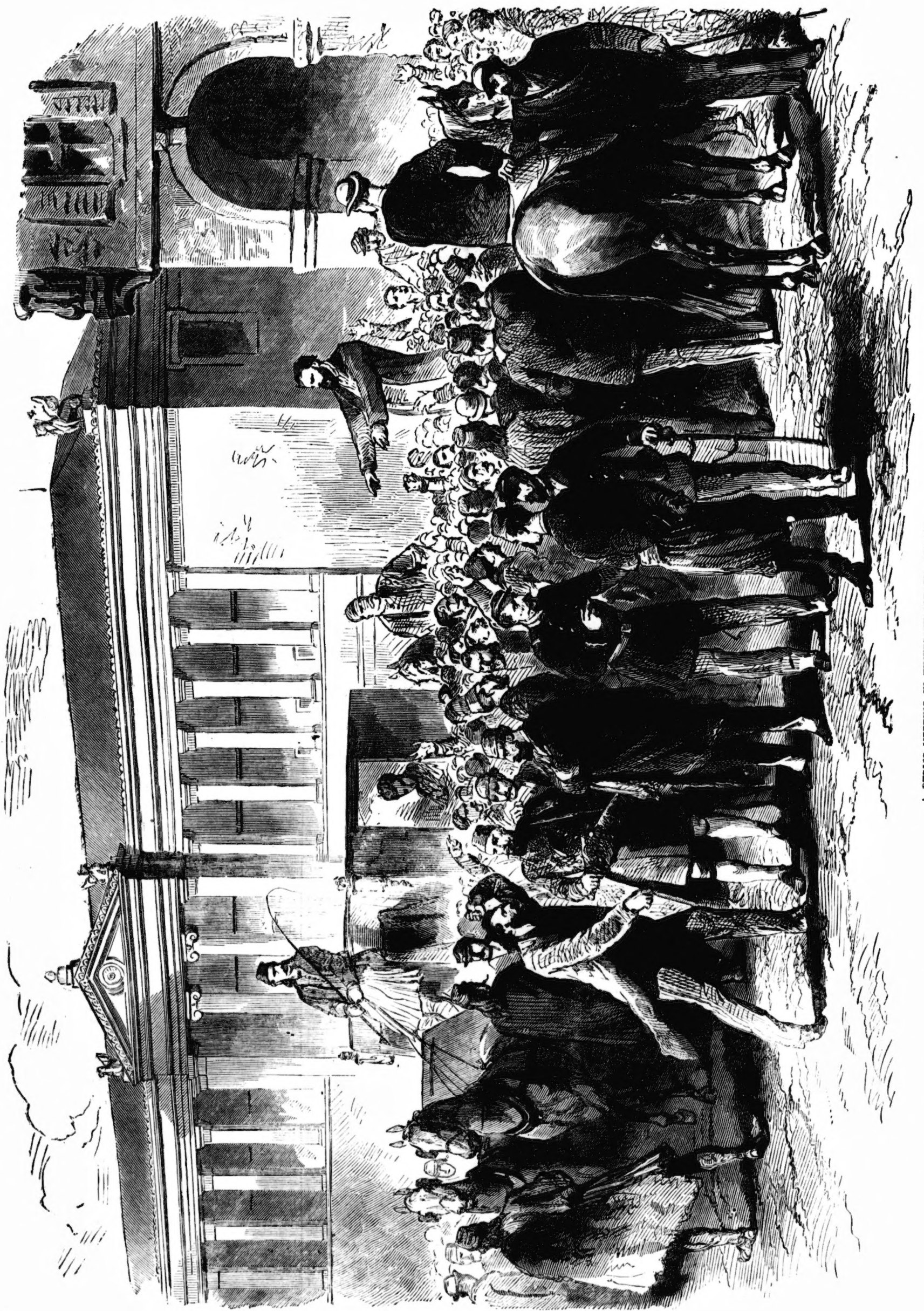
As regards the results of the Paris Conference, M. Theodore Delvannis has written to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs to say that the result of the deliberation "has been received by the whole Greek nation with sentiments of painful emotion," and that a Ministerial crisis occurred and lasted several days. Ministerial crises, however, and even public excitement, are not unprecedented events in Athens; so that the hurrying crowds, the gesticulating groups of politicians at the doors of cafés, the brisk demand for newspapers, and the general feverishness and agitation, although they are scarcely in accordance with the classical calm of the ancient city, are only after all a continuation of the history of the keen activity of its people. The great topic is the probability of American intervention; and all sorts of preposterous rumours are eagerly listened to, even the report of the approach of vessels of war with the flag of the United States; the news of a riot in Constantinople, and the dethronement of the Sultan, the bombardment of Syria, and the intelligence of the cession of Crete and Thessaly being among the "canards" of the last few days, and have been repeated with various additions and comments by those orators who, having little else to do, take the opportunity of addressing an audience whenever they can find one to listen to them. One sentiment, however, is very apparent, and that is the conclusion of the Conference, the decision of which is taken advantage of by the disaffected to denounce their own Government, so that insurrectionary placards have already appeared on the walls, and the words "abdication" and "republic" are once more muttered in some of the groups which are permitted to assemble anywhere in the public places so long as they are unarmed. Constitution-square, opposite the Royal Palace; the unfinished Varvakion (a space where a public school is to be erected), Caféia, and University-square, are the most frequent resorts for these open-air meetings. It is the latter, in which stands the University—the most beautiful building of modern Athens—that is represented in our Engraving, which is taken from a sketch made on an occasion when the audience comprised several of the students from the University itself.

## ANOTHER SOUVENIR OF THE CARNIVAL OF VENICE.

We have already published a scene taken from among the incidents at Venice during the Carnival, and our Engraving this week is from another sketch made by the artist, who seems to have selected the most picturesque exhibitions of costume to illustrate the fête. The red saloon in the Palace of Prince Giovannelli presented an appearance only equalled by that of the court of the same mansion during the arrival and departure of the quaintly-dressed guests. The ball-room, with its stately chimney-piece and its grim old family portraits, some of them painted by Titian and Tintoretto, would be a remarkable apartment at any time, since it has about it an almost historical character; but when it was filled with distinguished visitors habited in rich but frequently grotesque habiliments, and "carrying on" in accordance with the traditional expectations of the Carnival season, it presented a spectacle not easily forgotten, even though it may not have commanded serious respect.

THE MARQUIS OF BUTE.—Lord Bute had the honour to be admitted to a private audience by the Pope on the 9th inst. On Ash Wednesday he received the ashes from the hands of his Holiness in the Sistine Chapel, and on the following day was permitted, by a special favour, to hear the Pope's mass in the private oratory of the Vatican, on which occasion the Sovereign Pontiff gave him the sacraments of confirmation and the holy eucharist. Lord Bute having made an offering of £1200 to the Peter's Pence Fund, Pius IX. presented him with a reliquary of great value, which is described in a letter from Rome as a "truly royal gift."—*Times*.





A PUBLIC MEETING IN UNIVERSITY-SQUARE, ATHENS.





THE CARNIVAL AT VENICE: GRAND BALL IN THE GIOVANNELLI PALACE.



## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. NO. 345.

NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR SPECIALTIES.

As we surveyed the mass of new members the other day we knew to a certainty that there were talkers amongst them, although we could not then possibly know who would prove talking and who silent members. Since then the talkers have begun to show themselves, though no new member has, up to the time we write, spoken at any great length. Nor has any man yet shown symptoms of that affecting disease, the *cacoethes loquendi*, so troublesome when it is virulent to the House of Commons. This disease is always found in debating assemblies. The Irish are most afflicted with it; many Englishmen, though, are subject to it; whilst the Scotch are remarkably free. Amongst the new members, as we have said, we have at present discerned no symptoms of this malady. It will, though, be wonderful—indeed almost a miracle—if it should be found that not a man in the mass of 200 is afflicted with this distemper. Not only have talkers cropped up here and there, but some of them have disclosed their peculiarities, idiosyncrasies, gifts, and what we may call their special lines—that is, what a man means when he says "that is in my line" or "that is not in my line." Most members who take an active part in the transaction of the business of the House have their specialties or peculiarities. Some have only one line; some many lines. Mr. Alderman Lusk's specialty—that to which he thinks he is specially called—is criticising the Estimates. Newdegate's and Whalley's line is to defend England from the Pope and all his works. Mr. Augustus Smith, when he was in the House, was great upon foreshores. The late William Ewart devoted his long and useful life mainly to the culture and improvement of the people; and, it must be said, with great success. Good old Mr. Hadfield has for many years devoted his time and abilities to the promotion of religious equality. Some men think that the honourable member is the mere organ and representative of Dissent in the House. This is a slander. He is not the representative of Dissent *qua* Dissent, but of religious equality, which, if secured, would destroy Dissent. It is said that no private member has carried so many bills through the House as Mr. Hadfield; and all his measures had this end—the promotion of religious equality. Mr. Hadfield's career in the House is a fine example of the success which ultimately crowns untiring, unflinching perseverance—what the late President Lincoln called "pegging away." Again, Mr. Henry Brinsley Sheridan long ago took for his line the freeing of insurances against fire from tax; and long, very long, did he peg away, and for years without effect; but at last partial success rewarded him for his past labour, and encouraged him to persevere; and two years ago he had the satisfaction of seeing the top stone placed upon the edifice which he had so long laboured to rear. We could quote many more examples of men who have taken to special lines, but we have given enough. We may, though, notice that members not unfrequently take up subjects, work them for some years, and then drop them. Such men, as a rule, do not take to special subjects impelled by enthusiasm or strong faith, but merely to bring themselves before the public. This is specially the case with the lawyer class. Practising barristers generally come into the House with an eye to business; and, this being so, it behoves them not to lie secret, silent, and concealed. They must get their names before the public, and, if no other question is available for this purpose, they will take up one of the stock questions, a number of which are always floating about unsettled. The Baron de Bode question, the Danish claims, or the marriage of a deceased wife's sister, &c. At least a dozen lawyers have in our time brought the two former questions before the House; not with the remotest hope, or even the slightest wish, to succeed, but merely to lift themselves into notice. The Baron de Bode claim is as dead as the original Baron de Bode, and you might as well try to get a pound of butter out of a dog's mouth as to extract money from the Exchequer to satisfy the Danish claims. The marriage of a deceased wife's sister is a question of a different type. Some day common sense will triumph, and marriage with a deceased wife's sister be legalised; but very few of the lawyers who have taken the question up cared a straw about it. By-the-way, Thomas Chambers, the voluble if not eloquent member for Marylebone, has just put a notice of a bill upon the paper to effect this object, and, with a Radical House, he ought to succeed in the Commons; but if he should, the Lords will probably throw it out; and widowers languishing for their deceased wives' sisters will have still to languish or run over to Germany and get married there, to the satisfaction of conscience though not of English law. But if our Common Serjeant should not get his bill passed, he will achieve notoriety—and perhaps that is all he wants.

SIR GEORGE JENKINSON.

And now, after this preface—long, but as it is a real view of the inner life of the House, not too long, let us hope—we will proceed to notice the business that has come and is to come before the House, and the men who have been transacting or will transact said business. There have always been men in the House who have played the part of champions of the people against erring, blundering, incompetent, and, in some few cases—only a few, let us believe—unjust magistrates and ignorant, and possibly corrupt, policemen and other wrongdoers in a small way, either through incompetence or *malice prepense*. These members have not a very heroic business to perform; but it is a very useful line to take, and some eminent men have taken to it. Mr. Roebuck was occasionally great in this line, and woe to the wrongdoer that came under the lash of his tongue. Out of new members Sir George Samuel Jenkinson, member for North Wiltshire, has cropped up to take this line. The name of Jenkinson is probably little known to the present generation, and yet the name is historic; for the Earl of Liverpool, whose Administration controlled the destinies of this country for fifteen years—from 1812 to 1827—was named Jenkinson, and was a Sir something Jenkinson—held, indeed, the very Baronetcy which Sir George enjoys. Sir George's father was the Earl of Liverpool's cousin, and, in some circuitous way which we need not trace, the Baronetcy has come to Sir George. Sir George is, of course, a Conservative. Considering that he inherits the name and title of the old Tory Minister, he ought to be a Tory; but, then, there are no Tories now. The "Baronetage" tells us that Sir George is the son of the Right. Rev. John Jenkinson, Lord Bishop of St. David's. He got the Bishopric, no doubt, from his cousin the Earl. Prime Ministers in those days always kept clear of the Apostolic denunciation: "If any provide not for his own house he hath denied the Faith, and is worse than an infidel." Sir George is fifty-one years old, but he has never been in Parliament before. Rumour from the west whispers that he will prove a lively and perhaps a talkative member. He has already foreshadowed his liveliness. On the first night of the Session he was on his legs to give notice of a question about some poor girls thought to be wrongfully imprisoned. By-the-way, oblivious of the fact that February's days are twenty-eight, he fixed the 30th for his question; and it was amusing to note the hon. Baronet's puzzled look when loud laughter greeted this blunder. It seemed to say, "What the deuce are these fellows laughing at?" Nor did he discover the cause till he got to the table to give in his notice, when Colonel Taylor pulled his coat and reminded him that there is in our Calendar no 30th of February.

LORD BURY ASSAILS A POPULAR PRIVILEGE.

On Tuesday, the first members' night of the Session—the first open space arrived at in which independent members might disport themselves—two or three smart debates sprung up. The first was on Lord Bury's bill—a bill to render it unnecessary that a member appointed to an office under the Crown should vacate his seat. By an Act of Parliament passed in the reign of Queen Anne, every member who takes office under the Crown must vacate and go back to his constituencies to ask them whether they approve of this step. "If you approve of my taking office, re-elect me; if you don't, don't." Lord Bury thinks this inconvenient and unnecessary; and no doubt it is inconvenient and a great bore to newly-

chosen Ministers. It was an awful bore to Lord Bury in 1859, when he was appointed Treasurer of the Household and had to return to his constituents and ask for re-election. After a severe struggle he got re-elected; but, on petition, alas! he lost his seat, lost his place, lost a good deal of money, and did not get into Parliament again till 1860, when Wick, on Mr. Laing going out to India as Finance Minister, took compassion on him. *Hinc ille lachrymæ.* Lord Bury, in 1865, could find no entrance into Parliament. But ultimately he wooed and won Berwick-upon-Tweed. He has no office under the Crown now, but he is very likely to get one. Berwick is a slippery place. Since 1832 there has never been an election without a contest; and it is, therefore, not unnatural that he should wish to clear his path of this old statute of Queen Anne.

HOW MR. WHITE SMASHED THE BILL.

"Unnecessary! No!" said Mr. White, indignantly, in a short but vigorous speech—one of the best speeches that he ever delivered. It is not common, though not unprecedented, to oppose the introduction of a bill; but a bill like this, aiming at the extinction of a valuable popular privilege, the hon. member for Brighton thought ought to be dealt with at once. And he dealt with it after his own fashion—as a practised athletic pugilist would deal with a questionable-looking fop dancing and frisking before him, with a suspected intention of thieving. "What! you mean fobbing, do you? Take that!" sending a fencer straight from the right shoulder, as Mr. Kingsley would say, and another from the left, knocking all the wind out of the thing and sending it staggering to the ground. The House cheered as the honourable member delivered his telling blows. A likely thing, indeed, that the first real Parliament of the people should begin its career by taking away a privilege of the people! How could Lord Bury dream that a Radical House would consent to this?

HISTORICS.

There was not much left in this bill when Mr. White had done with it; and what there was Mr. Vernon Harcourt effectually choked out of it. Mr. William G. Vernon Harcourt, long known as a practising barrister up stairs, has now got into the House. Oxford City, to its honour be it spoken, sent him here in November last year as the colleague of Mr. Cardwell. Mr. Harcourt is the author of those famous letters on international law which appeared in the *Times* signed "Historicus." Very able letters, men say; but, for our part, we did not read them. Life is too short, we deemed, to read such long epistles on such a subject. When *Historicus* entered the House there was quite a flutter to see him, and no wonder; for, unquestionably, he is an able man, or the *Times*' editor would not have given up to him such a vast area of its space. It is too early yet to appraise exactly Mr. Harcourt's oratory; but we may say at once that undoubtedly we have in him an addition to that mental power which gives strength and dignity to Parliament, and causes it to be respected both at home and abroad. Mr. Vernon Harcourt has all the outward attributes of a good and effective speaker. He is tall, well made, handsome, and has easy, graceful manners. Having long practised at the bar, of course he is fluent. But it struck us, as we listened to him, that his oratory, like that of many lawyers, to be very effective in the House of Commons, needs compression, and that his delivery would be all the more impressive were the tone of it somewhat quicker and more lively. Nevertheless, the speech was a good speech. Indeed, there are not ten men in the House who could make a better, or one so good. But we must protest against the metaphor in the peroration of the old sword that is to be kept "bright and burnished (burnished and bright would have been better—burnished, to make it bright), as we have received it from our ancestors; and, if the present be an age in which it is not required, we should preserve it for future use, when political storms may arise, and when it may prove a security for the stability of the throne and safeguard to the liberties of the people." Two objections we have to this figure: 1st, this metaphorical sword has been used by spouters a hundred times; 2nd, there is a strange jumble of figures here. A sword in a storm, a sword as a security—i.e., a pledge—being metaphors, are dangerous things to handle.

READ, THE TENANT FARMER; AND WHALLEY OFF HIS HOBBY.

The next debate was on the vexed, perplexed, and apparently insoluble question of the burdens upon land. The heavy taxation, imperial and local, galls; and the galled jade winces, and prays that the burden may be lightened; and it ought to be, no doubt. But how is it to be done? that is the question. We notice this debate merely to say that one of the best speeches in it was made by Mr. C. S. Read, a tenant-farmer; and that Mr. Whalley made some wise remarks. Start not nor be surprised, reader, at this! It is only on one question that Mr. Whalley gets muddled. On other questions he can talk sensibly enough. When he mounts his old, spavined, broken-winded, roaring hobby, No Popery! he certainly does play such fantastic tricks as make the angels weep, or laugh; but when he is off his hobby, he is sane enough.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships only sat for about twenty minutes, and no business of importance was transacted.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. T. CHAMBERS gave notice of a motion for the appointment of a Select Committee of seven members to consider whether Sir Sydney Waterlow is disqualified by statute from voting in the House; Mr. SELWYN-IBBETSON, of a bill to amend the system of licensing beerhouses, and for other purposes; Mr. STAPLETON, of a bill to alter and amend the mode of electing representative Peers in Scotland and in Ireland, so as to give the minority a share in the representation; and Mr. GREGORY, of a resolution on the subject of the site for the new law courts.

THE RATEPAYING CLAUSES.

Mr. GLADSTONE, replying to an inquiry of Mr. C. Forster, stated that the measure contemplated by the Government relating to the ratepaying clauses of the Reform Act was not designed to repeal those clauses, or to restore the system of compound rating; but, recognising the existence of a practical grievance, it would apply a remedy, without reopening any portion of the political controversy on the Reform Act; and, although it might not restore the system of compound rating in letter and in name, he hoped it would be productive of the advantages which that system was intended to secure.

THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.

Lord ELCHO raised a conversation respecting the viaduct from Charing-cross to Wellington-street, Strand, proposed to be made on the Thames Embankment by the Metropolitan Board of Works. The noble Lord contended that the contemplated work would be the disfigurement of a most magnificent site, and that it would be wise on the part of the House to interfere and stay the hand of the Board of Works by submitting the project to the inquiry of a Select Committee.

He was followed by Mr. C. Buxton and Lord Bury in the same line of argument.

Mr. LAYARD observed that the department of Works, of which he was at the head, had nothing officially to do with the Thames Embankment or any works to be erected thereon; but he promised to use such personal influence as he had with the Metropolitan Board of Works in order to check their operations in this instance. That body had three years in which to accomplish the undertaking, and he thought that, if the House were to express a strong and decided opinion on the subject, they might be induced to stop the works.

Lord ELCHO gave notice of his intention to ask for a Select Committee on Tuesday next, and the matter dropped.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Some returns were ordered of money voted for the purposes of education in the United Kingdom; and, on the motion of Earl GRANVILLE, it was agreed that, in consequence of the Queen being unable, owing to the serious illness of Prince Leopold, to receive the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne from the whole House in person, it should be presented in the usual manner by the Lords with white staves.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ALABAMA CONVENTION.

Colonel GREVILLE NUGENT, on behalf of Sir H. Bulwer, gave notice that, in consequence of the decision of the Committee of the United States Senate on the Convention relating to the Alabama and other claims, the hon. Baronet would, on a future day, call attention to the relations between this country and America and move for papers.

IMPORTATION OF CATTLE.

Mr. FORSTER, at the instance of Mr. Headlam, stated that the Government, finding that they could not adopt the bill introduced by Lord R. Montagu for regulating the importation of foreign sheep and cattle, intended to bring in a measure of their own on the subject, believing that legislation was necessary, and that it should apply to animals that were affected with other contagious disorders besides the rinderpest.

THE MERCANTILE MARINE.

Mr. BRIGHT, replying to a question of Mr. Candlish, stated that a measure was in preparation for consolidating and amending the laws relating to the merchant marine, which he hoped to introduce in the course of the Session, though with little hope of it passing into law until another year.

THE FENIAN CONVICTS.

Mr. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE stated, in reply to The O'Connor Don, that the Irish Government had examined very carefully the list of prisoners, numbering eighty-one, now undergoing penal servitude on charges of treason and treason-felony in connection with the Fenian movement, in order to ascertain whether the clemency of the Crown might safely be extended to any of them. The result was that it had been determined to discharge forty-nine unconditionally, of whom thirty-four were in Australia and fifteen in Great Britain. This would leave thirty-two prisoners still undergoing the sentence, of whom nine were in the colonies, and the remainder at home. These consisted principally of the leaders and organisers, who were responsible for the attempted revolution of the last two or three years; and, as to these, Ministers did not believe it would be consistent with their duty, or be compatible with the public safety, to discharge them.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS.

At the request of Mr. GLADSTONE, the order agreed to on Friday last for the whole House going up to her Majesty with the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was discharged, in consequence of the illness of Prince Leopold and the inability of the Queen to visit London for the present.

CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in Committee of the whole House, proposed a resolution on which to found a bill to amend and extend the provisions of certain Acts relating to political pensions. At some length he explained the details of the measure, and observed that it was a matter so entirely for the consideration of the House that he was quite ready to be guided by its judgment on the future stages of the bill. The resolution was agreed to *sub silentio*, and the bill founded thereon brought in and read the first time.

A first reading was given to two bills introduced by Mr. GOSCHEN to provide for uniformity of assessment of rateable property in the metropolis, and for a common basis of value for the purposes of Government and local taxation in England. Mr. Goschen explained in great detail the anomalies and inequalities of the present systems of assessment, and as regards the metropolis he proposed to obtain his object by establishing assessment committees in every parish not within the operation of the Assessment Act of 1862 by creating an assessment board for the whole metropolis, at which a representative from each union would have a seat; and by appointing an assessor to this board, who would hear appeals from one union against another. The Metropolitan Board of Works, the Surveyor of Taxes, and everybody who had authority to levy a tax would have the right of appeal against the assessment of the union committees, and by this rivalry Mr. Goschen anticipated that the assessment of each district would be kept up to its fair level. Mr. Goschen added that the bill would contain a uniform scale of deductions. The second measure, he said, would resemble in its general provisions the Assessment Bill introduced by Mr. Hunt in 1867.

Mr. HARDY and other members approved the general scope of the bills.

SIDNEY WATERLOW.

On the motion of Mr. T. CHAMBERS, a resolution was agreed to for the appointment of a Select Committee of seven members to consider whether Sir Sydney Hedley Waterlow is disqualified from sitting and voting as a member of this House under the statute 22 Geo. III., c. 45, and to report their opinion thereon.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE having inquired what measures the Government intended to propose with respect to Ireland, and particularly as to law reform,

Earl GRANVILLE said it was doubtful if a Bankruptcy Bill for Ireland would be brought in this Session, but that bills would be prepared relating to the grand jury laws and prisons. He was unable at that moment to say what others were contemplated; but he was about to lay upon the table a bill to carry out the report of the Common Law Commission.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY gave notice that on Friday he should direct attention to the subject of crime and its suppression, and explain the provisions of a bill which was to be introduced first into this House instead of in the Commons, as originally intended.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE WAR OFFICE AND THE HOUSE GUARDS.

Mr. CARDWELL, prompted thereto by Lord Elcho, explained that the Duke of Cambridge was not Commander-in-Chief, and that his proper designation was "Field Marshal Commanding in Chief;" that the authority of the Secretary for War was supreme in all that relates to the administration of the Army, and that it could, if necessary, be brought to bear upon the minor promotions as well as upon the higher military appointments, and also upon matters connected with the discipline of the Army; and that there was no dual government other than that which necessarily arose from the Secretary for War and his staff being in one building, while the officer charged with the discipline of the Army was, with his staff, located in another.

RE-ELECTIONS OF MINISTERS.

Lord BURY asked leave to introduce a bill to repeal section 26 of the Act 6th of Anne, cap. 7, which directs that members of the House should be re-elected on accepting office under the Crown; but the measure was so badly received by the House that the noble Lord withdrew his motion.

LOCAL TAXATION.

Sir MASSEY LOPES, in a speech of some length, moved an address to the Crown to issue a Royal Commission to inquire into the present amount, incidence, and effect of local taxation, with a view to a more equitable adjustment of its burdens. The hon. Baronet quoted copious statistics to show that the local taxation weighed harshly and unjustly on landed property.

Mr. C. S. READ seconded the motion, remarking that what the representatives of the landed interest wanted was simply an extension of free trade.

Mr. GOSCHEN opposed the motion, on the ground that no precedent could be found for referring a question of the magnitude possessed by the one now under discussion to an irresponsible tribunal like a Royal Commission. The right hon. gentleman then proceeded to show that, though of late years there had been a considerable increase in local taxation, the burden of it had fallen more heavily upon the towns than on the country. The subject, he said, in conclusion, was one that ought to be dealt with, not by a Royal Commission, but by the Government and by Parliament.

Mr. LIDDELL thought the objection to a Commission well founded, but urged that the question might with propriety be referred to a Select Committee of the House.

After some remarks from Mr. Whalley, Mr. Henniker-Major, Mr. Pollard-Urquhart, Mr. De Grey, Mr. Corrance, and Mr. Newdegate,

Mr. GLADSTONE contended that there was no precedent for the course proposed by the hon. Baronet who brought forward the motion, but promised that when the great constitutional question now pressing for settlement had been disposed of, the Government would give its attention to the question involved in the motion now before the House.

Mr. WARD HUNT thought this a most satisfactory conclusion to the debate, and Sir M. Lopes withdrew his motion.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MINISTERS' MONEY.

Mr. M'LAREN moved for leave to bring in a bill to abolish the annuity tax, or ministers' money, in the parish of Caenogate, Edinburgh, and to make other provisions respecting the stipend of the minister in that parish and of the ministers in the city parishes. Mr. Dyce Nichol seconded the motion, and, after a few remarks from Sir Graham Montgomery, leave was given, and the bill was introduced and read the first time.

POOR LAW (IRELAND).

On the motion of Mr. M'LAREN, a bill was introduced and read the first time for the assimilation of the law for the relief of the poor in Ireland to that of England, by substituting a union rating for the present system of rating by electoral divisions.

SIDNEY WATERLOW.

The Select Committee to inquire into the alleged disqualification of Sir Sydney Hedley Waterlow, the member for Dumfriesshire, was appointed to consist of the following members:—The Lord Advocate, Mr. T. Chambers, Mr. Brand, Mr. Headlam, Mr. Gathorne Hardy, Mr. Henley, and Mr. Pemberton.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE ADDRESS.

Viscount SYDNEY brought up her Majesty's answer to the Address to the



Throne. Her Majesty expressed her confidence that she should continue to receive the valuable advice and assistance of their Lordships.

#### EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.

The Duke of ARGYLL laid on the table a bill for extending education in Scotland. It embodied substantially the recommendations of the Committee which some time ago inquired into the subject. It was intended to establish a central board. The Government proposed that the counties should elect two representatives to this board, the boroughs two, the Universities two, the organisation of schoolmasters one; and it was also intended to give the Crown representatives on the board. This board was to have control over the erection and arrangement of schools. There were to be no more denominational schools in Scotland, and the central board was to have the power of disposing of Scotland's share of imperial taxation to the best advantage, without being hampered by the regulations of the Privy Council. The principle of the bill before the House was to make no distinction between different classes of society, and to encourage the higher standard which has hitherto prevailed in the higher parochial schools in Scotland. The bill was read the first time.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. CHILDERS gave notice that he would bring forward the Navy Estimates this day week.

Mr. CARDWELL gave notice that he would move the Army Estimates on March 8.

Mr. R. Gurney obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law with respect to the property of married women.

Mr. T. Chambers also obtained leave to bring in a bill to legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

#### THE ADMIRALTY REDUCTIONS.

In reply to Sir J. Elphinstone, Mr. CHILDERS gave a statement of the changes introduced into the Admiralty. The agreement between the Government and its clerks was regulated by an Act of Parliament which had been in force for ten years. The change made had resulted in the reduction of thirty-three clerks, who would be compensated, according to that Act, and the saving was £7000 a year. He made inquiries with respect to retirements, and he believed that no efficient clerks would be obliged to retire; but that, if they were, they would be restored on the first vacancies. With respect to the closing of Woolwich Dockyard, all the artificers and factory hands would receive a year's notice.

#### THE QUEEN'S REPLY.

Lord OTHO FITZGERALD brought up the Queen's reply to the Address, which was as follows:—"I have received your loyal and affectionate Address. I gladly rely upon the members of the House of Commons, elected by a greatly-enlarged constituency, to co-operate with me in my endeavours to promote the welfare and union of my people."

#### THE FENIAN CONVICTS.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE, in reply to Sir F. Heygate, said that the Government had instituted a most rigid examination into the case of every Fenian prisoner, especially with respect to his character, antecedents, and the evidence given at his trial. Having done this, the Government thought that it ought to decide with respect to the release on its own responsibility, without consulting the Judge who tried the case; for the circumstances now were different from the usual memorial for a commutation of sentence.

#### THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

Mr. OTWAY, in answer to Mr. Torrens, said the Government had no authentic official information with respect to the rejection of the Alabama Convention by the Committee of the Senate of the United States. They had no information with respect to the protocol regarding mutual rights and naturalisation, but he would that night lay on the table the report of the Naturalisation Commissioners.

#### ASSESSED RATES.

Mr. GOSCHEN moved for leave to bring in a bill for amending the law with respect to rates assessed upon occupiers for short terms, the main principles of the measure being to enable weekly tenants to deduct the rates from the landlord's rent and to authorise the assessment on such property to be a certain per centage lower than on houses of a superior character.

After some discussion, the bill was brought in and read the first time.

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#### HOMES FOR WORKING MEN.

We have a strong dislike, based not upon fancy but upon principle, to speaking of the working class as a caste by itself. The very phrase working class can be accepted only provisionally by those who believe that every human being has a right to the best possible culture of his whole nature, and that, consequently, any devotion of particular orders of men to ends which make culture difficult is wrong, however inevitable it seem to be. Again, if there is anything unmistakably written large upon the forehead of the times in which we live, it is that those orders of our fellow-men to whom we apply the phrase "working classes" are, slowly but surely, "levelling up," and preparing to take their own fate into their own hands. This, however, does not make it the less incumbent upon those classes who have failed in duty to those beneath them to aim at atoning for past neglect by offering such help as they can.

Experience has settled for us two very important facts in relation to the duty of helping others, so far as the material conditions of life are concerned. One is that (omitting instances in which the appeal is to bare humanity, and in which the presumption is that there has been pure misfortune in the case) the only satisfactory and permanent help is that which does not pauperise the recipient. The other is that material help can be rendered to those who need it in no more efficient shape than that of helping them to improved dwellings. This is found, in practice, to mean improving their morals, and diminishing the chance of disease, with all its risk and costliness to others as well as to themselves.

The names of Miss Burdett Coutts, Mr. Peabody, and Sir Sidney Waterlow are familiar to us all in connection with the great question of improved dwellings for the labouring classes, and it has just been disclosed, in the usual course of business, that the Limited Liability Company with which the name of the latter gentleman is particularly associated, has been a great success. At the end of 1865 the improved dwellings erected by this company were housing about 600 men; at the end of 1868 the numbers had increased to nearly 4000. The returns would have sufficed to yield a dividend of 7 per cent for the shareholders,

but only 5 per cent was actually declared, while the 2 per cent undistributed was set aside for further extensions of the company's business. It cannot be denied that 7 per cent is a high rate of interest upon capital invested in this peculiar manner; but it is something that the good work is being carried on, and it is much—very much—that nobody is being pauperised, but that the tenants are simply getting a good exchange for the rents they pay. Of course, however, working men who are tenants of the houses and not shareholders in the company, may be said by those, if any, who think the rents high, to be paying at the rate of 2 per cent for the benefit of other people. But, in the mean while, the rents are, for the accommodation actually afforded, low; and we must not look grudgingly at the balance-sheet of so young an enterprise.

#### LORD LYTTON'S LAST AND BEST.

ERNEST JONES was one of the last members of a class of politicians which in England is rapidly going to decay—we mean the loud and melodramatic class. But the melodrama of his career had a reason of being which is rare. He had in him a vein of true poetry; his career was almost tragical in some of its incidents; and his disinterestedness was truly heroic. There is something heartbreaking in the story of his life, too familiar to us now, alas! and too long, as to its later phases, kept a modest secret from thousands who would have sprung forward to the rescue if they had known it. It is with the deepest satisfaction that we observe that the task of doing justice to his memory is not to be left in the hands of those who might be too apt to strike the gong over his grave, and deter thoughtful people by their blatancy. The name of the author of "The Caxtons" is to be inscribed for £10 in the list of contributors to the fund raised in behalf of Mr. Jones's wife and children.

Lord Lytton never did anything which became him better. In spite of his genius and his rare fidelity to his vocation as a man of letters, he has hitherto hardly succeeded in making his countrymen love him. But in future they will read his books in the light of the wise and modest letter in which he announces to the secretary of the fund, in reply to that gentleman's application, his intention to contribute, and apologises for the smallness of the sum. After referring to the reason of humanity which enters into the case, and also the reason of homage to the disinterestedness of the deceased gentleman, Lord Lytton adds:—"For these reasons, as well as on account of that kind of freemasonry which ought to exist among those who, cultivating literature in no unworthy or ungenial spirit, keep the ground it occupies amongst the civilising influences of the world free from the animosities of political conflict, I shall willingly add my contribution to the fund."

This is well said, and it points to a topic which, though not new, can never cease to be interesting. Literature, as record, as picture, and as comment, is of no party—political, religious, or other. The Tory historian is bound to do justice to the Radical innovator; the Radical poet is bound to paint fairly the Conservative view of life. So far as it is an instrument of conflict, Literature takes sides; but in the inner circle, amid the domesticities of literature, there is no conflict permitted except that of impartial desire to be first in kindness and equitable appreciation. It may be questioned whether those who are outside of literature know how much they owe to it as a sanctuary in which the worst animosities have rest; and Lord Lytton has done true service in reminding the "active world," as it is called, of one of its obligations.

THE PUBLICATION OF M. EMILE OLLIVIER'S BOOK, which was to have told the world all about Jan. 19, and how the Emperor meant to make him Prime Minister, but did not, is not only postponed, but will not take place for "several months."

THE INAUGURAL DINNER OF THE COLONIAL SOCIETY is to take place on March 10 next, at Willis's Rooms. The president of the society, Viscount Bury, will take the chair. Among those who have promised to be present are the Prime Minister and Earl Granville, the Secretary for the Colonies. The society has been formed with the special object of protecting the interests of our colonial possessions, and of affording means of intercommunication between persons especially interested in those places.

A DRUNKEN CABDRIVER, while driving on Monday at a rapid pace along Coombe-street, Soho, came into collision with a light spring cart, and shortly afterwards ran into a wagon, against which the cab was smashed, a gentleman inside fortunately escaping unhurt. At Marlborough-street, on Tuesday, the man said he had been to a wedding and had had drink given to him. Mr. Tyrwhitt fined him 40s., with the alternative of a month's imprisonment, and expressed his regret that he could not inflict a severer punishment.

IRISH RAILWAYS.—The Irish party in both Houses of Parliament intend, it would seem, to bring all their influence to bear on the Government, in order that it may be induced to purchase the Irish railways for the State; and for the attainment of that purpose a meeting, convened by special circular, was held on Wednesday in a committee-room of the House of Commons. Among those present were the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Lucan, the Earl of Bessborough, Lord Lismore, and other Irish peers. Between thirty and forty members of the Lower House also attended. It will be remembered that the Commission which was appointed to inquire into the subject recommended that the Irish railways should be bought by the State; but Mr. Disraeli's Government took no steps in the matter. The meeting was under the impression that the present Government would not be disposed to buy the railways, and that it was hesitating to assist certain Irish lines with further loans. Hence the Peers and Commons not only passed a unanimous resolution demanding that the Ministry should carry out the report of the Commission, but also appointed a deputation to urge that course upon Mr. Gladstone.

ADOPTION OF THE MONCIEFF BATTERY.—The Moncieff contrivance for mounting heavy artillery has been definitively accepted by the Government. Captain Moncieff has been treated with a prompt liberality. He is to receive, first, a sum of money sufficient to cover the cost of his models and his preliminary expenses. Secondly, he is to receive payment for the time that he has devoted exclusively to the public service (about two years, we believe), at a rate of £1000 per annum, which rate of pay is to continue so long as Captain Moncieff is engaged in rendering assistance, in making and completing designs for the application of his system, and in superintending the construction of his carriages. Thirdly, he is to receive £15,000 as a reward for the invention, and for the use which may be made of it in her Majesty's service, either afloat or ashore, in any modification or combination. Captain Moncieff on his part is required to undertake to communicate fully and unreservedly all improvements which he may deem practicable; in fact, to give the benefit of his knowledge of this particular subject to the country. Of the sum of £15,000, £10,000 is to be paid at once, the remaining £5000 when the inventor ceases to draw his salary of £1000 a year. These terms are liberal, and no doubt they will be generally regarded so; but they are not excessive.

#### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN'S COURT announced to take place at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday week has been postponed to the following day.

HER MAJESTY has conferred on Admiral Sir George Rose Sartorius the rank of Vice-Admiral of the United Kingdom. Sir George Sartorius is one of the few survivors of the Battle of Trafalgar.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, we are told in a telegram from Alexandria, travelling leisurely, left Esneh, on the left bank of the Nile, in the province of Thebes, Upper Egypt, on Saturday, for the cataracts of Assouan. The Royal party and suite are all well. The Viceroy has ordered preparations for a ball to be given in honour of the Prince and Princess on March 4.

PRINCE LEOPOLD, who has had a severe attack of illness, is rapidly improving in health.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, K.G., has consented to preside at the triennial dinner of the Asylum for Female Orphans, Beddington, fixed to take place at the London Tavern on Wednesday, April 14 next.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY has issued a minute ordering that all officers shall be found punctually at their posts at ten a.m.

THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON writes to the *Manchester Guardian* to state that the report that he has purchased or hired Mr. Green Price's house or estate in Radnorshire, or that he has entered into any arrangement with him of any kind whatever, is "utterly false."

THE SHAH OF PERSIA has made proposals to the Government of India to lend him Indian officers to reorganise his army.

MR. ALDERMAN SALOMONS has been unable through illness to attend during the past week to his public or Parliamentary business.

LORD ELCHO has been elected to fill the post of president of the National Rifle Association, vacant by the appointment of Lord Spencer to the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland.

COUNT CHARLES WALEWSKI has, it is said, brought back from Greece numerous vine-cuttings from the plants of Corinth and Cyprus, which the Empress is about to try and acclimatise in the gardens belonging to the palace of St. Cloud.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ST. GALL (Argau) has just awarded the prize of a gold watch as a reward to the man who had saved the greatest number of lives during the inundations in the Rheintal to I. Sperig, resident at Balzach, who had rescued eighty persons from drowning.

THE GREAT NORTHERN AND MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANIES have signified their intention of discontinuing the payment of church rates in consequence of the passing of the Compulsory Church Rates Abolition Act, 1868.

MR. LAYARD, Chief Commissioner of Works, has sanctioned a proposition for carrying an iron railing 7 ft. high round Regent's Park in lieu of the present dwarf fence. The rails will be of the ordinary common spike shape.

THE PETITION against the return of Mr. Figgins, the sitting Conservative member for Shrewsbury, is to be withdrawn.

THE AUSTRIAN FRIGATE RADETZKI has been blown up between the islands of Lissa and Lesina, in the Adriatic. Three hundred lives were lost and only twenty saved.

THE SAVING WHICH MR. CHILDERS will propose to effect during the financial year of 1869-70 will, it is said, be from £200,000 to a million sterling. It is expected that the saving in the Army estimates, which are now nearly completed, will be something over one million sterling.

THE FLAG-OFFICER'S GOOD-SERVICE PENSION, lately held by Admiral Sir George Rose Sartorius, has, "for special reasons," been conferred by Mr. Childers on Vice-Admiral Sir Lewis Tobias Jones, K.C.B. These "special reasons" are explained to be the fact that Sir Lewis has a greater length of service than any Admiral or Vice-Admiral who is in receipt of a pension.

MR. LOWE AND MR. BRIGHT were on Wednesday waited upon by a deputation, who asked that the light dues now charged upon the shipping interest might be thrown upon the national exchequer. Neither of the right hon. gentlemen could hold out any hope that the request would be granted; but Mr. Bright admitted that inequalities in the present system existed, and expressed his belief that they could be remedied.

THE TRIBUNAL OF THE SACRA CONSULTA at Rome has commuted the sentence of death upon Ajani and Luzzi to hard labour for life.

MR. JOULET asserts that he can so cleanse printed paper as to make it suitable for receiving a fresh impression. He states that by immersing the printed sheet in a slight alkaline solution the ink disappears, and leaves the sheet of a pure, spotless white.

THE POWERS lately represented at Paris are preparing a circular note declaring the course and the purpose of the negotiations, with the view of providing a basis for the settlement of future international disputes by means of Conferences.

THE WRECK of her Majesty's ship Chanticleer, off the coast of Zanzibar, has been reported at Bombay.

AT THE REQUEST OF THE DOVER COMMITTEE of the Easter Monday Volunteer Review, expressed through the representatives of the borough, Mr. Childers, the First Lord of the Admiralty, has promptly promised the presence of a naval force at Dover to co-operate with the volunteer army and the regulars at the forthcoming Easter Monday review.

THE ELECTION FOR THE CITY OF LONDON, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. C. Bell, took place on Monday. There was only one candidate, Baron Rothschild, who, in his speech, paid a graceful compliment to the memory of his predecessor. The Conservatives not having contested the election, the Baron was declared to be duly elected.

THE GREENWICH HOSPITAL PENSION of £150 a year, vacant by the death of Admiral Sir James A. Gordon, G.C.B., Admiral of the Fleet, on the 8th ult., has been granted to Vice-Admiral the Hon. Joseph Denman from that date.

THE STORY OF SIX NUNS being confined in a damp cellar at Louvain, Belgium, is described by the Rector of the American College at Louvain as "an infamous calumny." He says the whole truth is that six ladies, "not being pleased any longer in the convent," applied to the Archbishop of Malines to obtain for them a dispensation from their vows, and the Archbishop complied with their request.

PROTESTS AGAINST THE CONSECRATION OF MR. MACROBIE as Bishop of Natal are being signed by large numbers of the laity in South Africa. At the departure of the mail on the 20th ult. Mr. Macrobie had not reached the colony.

THE REFORMATION SOCIETY OF NEUCHÂTEL, in Switzerland, have issued the following programme:—"A Church without priests, religion without a catechism, worship without mysteries, morals without theology, and God without creeds."

THE INHABITANTS OF THE CANTON OF SOLEURE, in Switzerland, have voted against the total, as distinguished from the partial, revision of the Constitution. Their vote appears to be decisive as to the continuance of the present form of government.

THE BUCCLEUCH STEAMER was leaving Great Yarmouth for Hull on Tuesday afternoon, when the boiler exploded. Mr. Wright, the captain, was blown into the river, and his leg broken. Several of the crew were scalded, but not severely.

A MAN NAMED BAXTER, a ladder-maker, who worked with his son in a cellar at Bolton, and sometimes passed the night there on a bed of shavings, was found, on Saturday morning, burnt to a cinder. He had, it appears, on the previous night left a beerhouse in a state of intoxication and gone to the cellar, where, by some accident, he set fire to the shavings and was burnt to death.

THE GOOD-SERVICE PENSION of £300 a year, vacant by the acceptance of the post of Governor and Visitor of Greenwich Hospital by Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, G.C.B., on the 15th ult., has been granted from that date to Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Smart, K.C.B., K.H.

A TAME RAVEN has just saved the small town of Pont-Anthon (Eure) from partial destruction. The house of its master, a baker, caught fire, and the man was awakened by the screams of the bird just in time to prevent the conflagration from extending to an adjoining wood-yard and building, in which a large quantity of brandy was stored. The poor raven could not, however, be rescued, and was burnt to death.

AT THE MEETING OF THE CONVOCATION OF YORK, on Tuesday, the Archbishop announced that, although with great reluctance, he had, in deference to the opinion of others, taken legal proceedings against Mr. Voysey. Mr. Voysey is a clergyman who publishes a book called the "Sling and Stone," in which, it is said, he states certain iconoclastic views, not only very plainly but very offensively.

AMONG THE DEACONS ordained by the Bishop of Oxford on Sunday was Shapurji Edulji—a Parsee. It may be presumed. In India there are a good many native clergymen, but Mr. Edulji has not been set apart for the evangelisation of his fellow-countrymen. He takes his place among the clergy of England, and is at this moment Curate of Burford and Fulbrook, not many miles from Oxford itself.

THE KEEPER OF A REFRESHMENT AND LODGING HOUSE was on Tuesday summoned at the Thames Police Court for having infringed the Public-house Closing Act of 1864, by keeping open between the hours of one and four in the morning. The magistrate held that the duty of proving that the persons served were not lodgers rested with the police, and as they were unable to do so, the summons was dismissed.

MR. THRING, well known for some years past as the able draughtsman of most of the principal bills introduced by the Government, has been appointed to the post of Parliamentary Counsel, at a salary of £2500 a year. Mr. Jenkins, who has lately done much valuable work as "junior" to Mr. Thring, has been appointed his permanent assistant at £1200 a year. To these gentlemen will in future be confined the draughting of all measures to be submitted to Parliament by the Government.





THE NEW MAGDALEN HOSPITAL AT STREATHAM.

## THE MAGDALEN HOSPITAL.

THE Magdalen Hospital, the oldest asylum in England for the reformation of the "fallen," was established in August, 1758, and has received within its walls upwards of 10,000 women, of whom upwards of two thirds have been restored to society.

From 1758 to 1772 it occupied premises in Whitechapel; but a few years' experience convinced the then committee that the work of reformation would be better carried on in the country than in the crowded district of Whitechapel, and they appealed to the public to enable them to build an asylum on a plot of land in the open suburb on the south of the Thames known as St. George's-fields.

This appeal was liberally responded to, and the present asylum in Blackfriars-road was built; and thus this work of mercy has already been carried on for 110 years. But the green fields of 1772 have been by degrees covered with houses, containing a population denser than that of Whitechapel; and the garden of the asylum, once producing fruit and vegetables, now yields nothing to cultivation. In 1863 the hospital underwent the inspection of her Majesty's Charity Commissioners, who urged upon the committee the advisability of removing the hospital to a more airy and

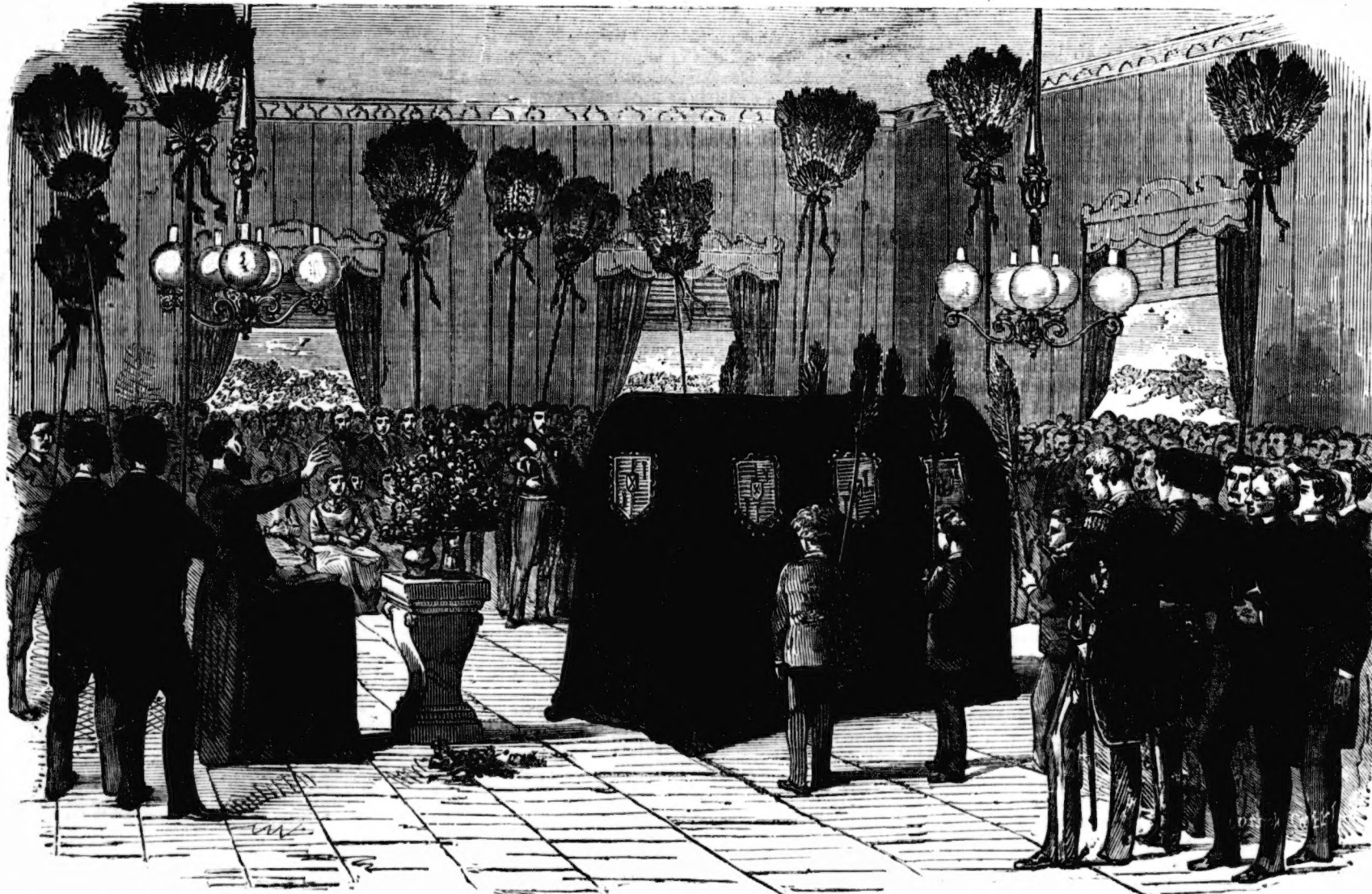
healthy situation. The committee had long been aware that many advantages would follow upon the removal of the hospital to a better site, as the proximity of a theatre overlooking the garden and the disturbances created at night by disorderly people of both sexes, plainly audible in the wards of the hospital, now render the moral restoration of the penitents doubly difficult.

But it was felt that the removal of so large an institution could not but be attended with great expense; that the money to be realised by the sale of the London premises would not cover that expense; and that the deficiency must be met, not by sacrificing the funded property of the hospital, but by an appeal to the public. At a court specially summoned, the governors decided that the removal should take place, and that increased accommodation for penitents should be provided, it being confidently felt that, in so national and charitable an undertaking, the corporation might rely on public aid and sympathy. After some delay, a site of six acres was selected, close to the Streatham station on the Victoria, Crystal Palace, and London Bridge line; and this site, meeting with the approbation of the Court of Chancery, was purchased, and is now the property of the hospital.

In addition to the main asylum at Streatham, it was thought

advisable to retain a small establishment in London, where committees and general courts might be held, where young women might apply for admission, and where, if necessary, they might be temporarily received, while the truth of their statements and the sincerity of their promises of amendment were being in some measure tested.

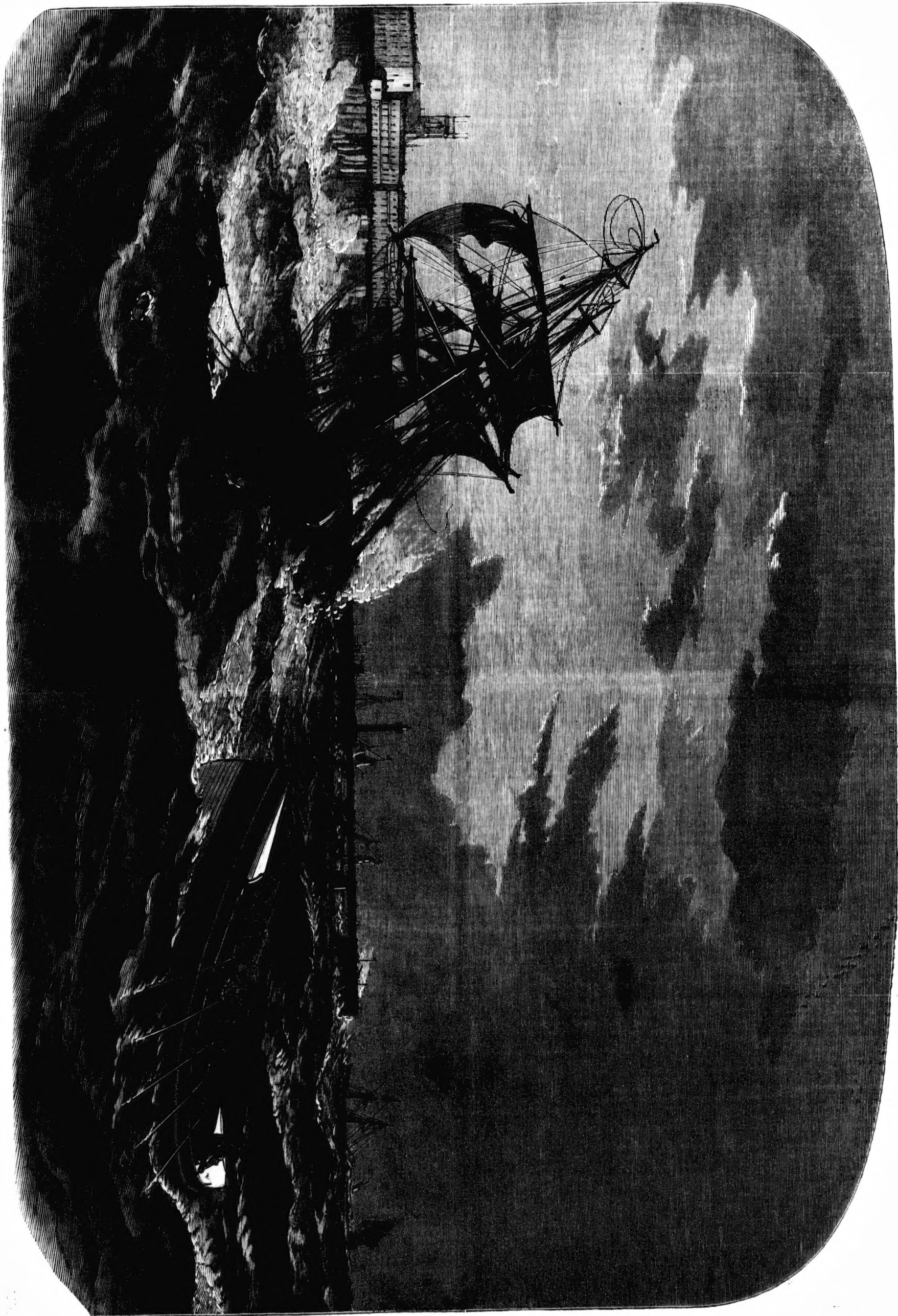
The general arrangement of the new buildings may be thus described:—The new site has a frontage of 200 yards towards the railway at Streatham, with a depth of 190. A detached building, designed for an infirmary, will stand in the centre of the new site, the ground behind being devoted to gardens and exercise grounds. In front of this infirmary will stand eight wards, all exactly alike, and each presided over by an assistant matron. Each of these wards is complete in itself, and its inmates will hold no communication with the inmates of other wards; an arrangement which will enable the committee to assign to each penitent the matron, the companions, and the occupation most suitable for her. These eight wards will be connected by an inclosed and covered corridor, 150 yards long, running the whole length of the buildings, and serving not only as a means of intercommunication but as a place



FUNERAL OF THE FATHER OF THE KING OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS, AT HONOLULU.



THE LATE GALE: SCENE OFF NARCAAT.





for exercise in wet weather. In front of this corridor, and connected with it, will stand at one end the Magdalen chapel, at the other the chaplain's house, and in the centre a building containing committee-rooms, head matron's apartments, and accommodation for a sub-matron and ten other penitents. These arrangements, when completed, will give 172 beds, as compared with 140 in the old building.

The removal of the inmates to the new hospital has now been completed; the old premises are advertised to be sold or let, and the committee of management appeal to the public for aid to enable them to clear off the debt which they have incurred in erecting the new edifice. It is now exactly a century since a similar appeal was made to the country; £10,000 was then required and obtained. Now the committee would appeal for at least a similar sum, which, if raised, will complete an asylum available for every class of penitent—available, not for the metropolis only, but for all England—an asylum to last, not for the ensuing century only, but which, to use the language of the act of incorporation of 1768, shall "continue for ever."

#### FUNERAL OF PRINCE MATAIO KEKUANOA, FATHER OF THE KING OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

In previous Numbers we have published (with accompanying illustrations) some tolerably complete descriptions of those islands which are named after the principal of their number—the Hawaii group; and assuredly there are few places in the world more interesting than these charming spots, where Christianity and civilisation were so rapidly adopted, although there is a melancholy recollection attached to the island with the sighing name—Hawaii, or Owyhee—since it was there that the great circumnavigator lost his life through an attack made by the inhabitants. The advantageous position of the Sandwich Islands have made them a valuable connecting link between America and China, and led to the early establishment of numerous European and American settlers, and the rapid rise of a very extensive trade. At the time when the whaling trade flourished they formed a kind of common centre to the ships visiting the three principal whaling-grounds of the North Pacific—one on the Equator, another near Japan, and the third toward the Behring Sea, so that Honolulu, the capital of the group, became a kind of entrepôt of the northern portion of the great ocean.

Honolulu, although not situated in the larger island of Hawaii, but on the southern shore of Oahu, the third of the group, is the capital of the Sandwich Isles; and, indeed, Oahu must be said to be the best cultivated and most flourishing, since, while on its northern part two summits rise from 3000 to 4000 ft., the whole of the southern portion consists of a large and fertile plain. It is on the south shore that a wide barrier reef forms the celebrated harbour of Honolulu, called after the capital, where the ceremony represented in our Engraving has lately taken place.

At the end of last year the death of the father of the present King of these islands caused general mourning throughout the country; and his funeral, which was celebrated with great pomp, was an important public event. There was nothing differing so widely from the usual ceremonies at a Royal funeral as to require special description, and yet it is curious to note that some of the old customs of their wild but emotional ancestors are still retained by the Hawaiians. Among them is the retention of the Kasaiki fans, made from the long plumes of richly-hued tropical birds—fans which have been always regarded as an emblem of Royalty, and were always to be seen when the King appeared in public. These fans were used by the old Canache chiefs, and during the funeral solemnities children, standing around the coffin of the dead Prince, stirred the heavy air by the motion of those bright plumes that had so long been the insignia of his race. The religious ceremony took place in the mortuary chamber; after which the pastor of the Hawaiian Church, extending his arms as though addressing the spirit of Kekuanoa, spoke a few touching words and bade him farewell, or "Aloha." The King then placed himself at the head of the funeral cortege, which at once proceeded at a slow pace to the Royal mausoleum, amidst the entire population, which lined the roadway, and whose sobs and lamentations mingled sadly with the booming of the guns on the fort, which announced that the body of the Prince had been deposited in its last resting-place.

#### THE LATE GALE AT MARGATE.

THE gales which visited our coasts a fortnight ago were felt with peculiar severity off Margate and Ramsgate. Half a dozen wrecks occurred between Margate harbour and the North Foreland, and as many on the Goodwin, while no less than ten or a dozen vessels are known to have been lost between Ramsgate and the North Foreland during the night of Friday, the 12th inst. The Quiver life-boat was all but crushed while out on one of her errands of mercy. When the news of the disaster was received in town the National Life-Boat Institution immediately telegraphed to its builders to have the boat repaired or replaced forthwith. While it continues to display such promptitude on occasions on which promptitude is everything the institution is never likely to want funds to carry out its work of usefulness.

Our illustration portrays the scene witnessed at Margate; and a correspondent, writing from Ramsgate, states that—"Between eight and nine o'clock on Friday evening, Feb. 12, numerous signals of distress were seen in the direction of the Goodwin, and in response to these signals the life-boat and tug were dispatched thither. On their way, in the dark, they nearly ran over a schooner that was ashore on the South Brake. They heard the crew of the vessel shrieking for help, but the schooner went to pieces, and though they still heard the cries of the drowning men, they were unable to distinguish or save any of them, and thus the poor fellows perished. The life-boat and tug then went on to the Goodwin, where they found a large barque ashore on the North-west Spit. The sea was very rough, making a clean breach over the barque, and the life-boat failed to get alongside of her. The life-boat cruised about for a while, and shortly after midnight repeated the attempt to get alongside the barque with equal ill success. About three o'clock, the ship being nearly to pieces, she made a third attempt, and this time was successful. The vessel proved to be the Island Chief, 845 tons register (Captain Beverley), and was bound from Shields for Carthage with a cargo of coals and cinders. It appears that she was at anchor in the Margate Roads, but the gale caused her to part from some of her anchors and drift on the Goodwin. Five of the crew got into a boat and endeavoured to save themselves, but they have not since been heard of. The remainder of the crew (eleven in number) and the pilot were taken on board the life-boat, which proceeded back to Ramsgate in tow of the tug. On her way back the life-boat fell in with an abandoned schooner—the Tavistock, of Plymouth. She was making much water, her bowsprit was carried away, both sides were damaged, and both anchors were gone. Half of the life-boat crew were placed on board the prize, and she was towed into the harbour. The crew of the Tavistock turned up in the course of Saturday afternoon, they having taken to their own boat on Friday night, and landed at Broadstairs."

LONDON AND ITS POPULATION.—The Registrar-General has published a summary of the weekly returns of births, death, and causes of death in London last year. The area of the metropolis is given at 77,997 acres, or 122 square miles. It contains 400,778 houses, each inhabited by about 8 persons. The annual value of property, according to the county rate assessment of 1866, was £15,261,999. There are 40 persons to an acre, or 25,655 to a square mile. The population resides at a mean elevation of 39 feet above Trinity high-water mark, and was estimated, in the middle of last year, at 3,126,635. During the twelve months there were 116,744 births, and 74,908 deaths, and the rate of mortality per 1000 was 23.59. The domestic water supply was equivalent to 26 gallons daily for each person. The mean temperature of the year was 51.6. In giving many interesting details with respect to the mortality of the metropolis, the Registrar notes that the rate is lower on the south side of the Thames than it is on the north.

#### THE LOUNGER.

ONE of the most effective cries of the old Whigs was "civil and religious liberty all over the world;" and it is but just to say that they did in their time much to promote civil and religious liberty. But still they never rightly understood the full meaning of the term "religious liberty." For instance, many, if not most of them, halted on the question of church rates. The Dissenters, during a long course of years, had to fight that battle with but little help from the leading Whigs. They fought in parishes; at an enormous cost, they battled for their liberty in the courts of law; thousands endured distraints upon their goods; and several, notably John Childs, of Bungay, suffered imprisonment; and meanwhile the Whig Churchmen for the most part stood by and rendered little or no help; and it was not till, in thousands of parishes, the Dissenters had succeeded in abolishing church rates that the Whigs consented practically to do away with them by enactment. The truth is that the old Whigs never could be made to understand the meaning of religious liberty in its full extent—they never got much beyond toleration. The perfect civil, religious, political, and social equality of Churchmen and Dissenters they never dreamed of; or, at least, never strove to obtain. But Whiggery is dead now; or, if not dead, rapidly dying. Radicalism is in the ascendant; and the watchword of Radicalism is not merely liberty, but equality—"Equality before the law." How is it, then, that in Mr. Forster's Endowed School Bill there is a taint of toleration—Churchmen tolerating Dissenters? You will find it in what is called the conscience clause, which provides that Dissenters who do not wish their children to learn the Church Catechism must demand in writing that their children shall not be taught it. Now, why should Dissenters be obliged to make this demand? Why should not members of the Church of England, if they wish their children to learn the Catechism, demand that it be taught them? This would be something like equality. The arrangement in the bill is not. It is simply old, odious toleration. Or, what would be still better, let there be no theological formulas or catechisms taught in State-endowed schools. Relegate all theological teaching to pastors and parents. Fancy a Dissenting farm-labourer having to make this demand in writing! In the first place, most likely, he could not write; in the second, if he were to make the demand he would be probably marked; "blackened," as the term is, and rattened. "Ah!" it may be said, "you want education without religion." No, I do not; I want education without theology, which is quite another thing. Irreligious education, or education without religion, is scarcely possible. If a boy lies, or thieves, or uses bad language, or is cruel, or unjust, or even disobedient, the master expostulates with him; shows him how wicked he is, and enforces his expostulations by punishment, and thus religiously educates him. My own opinion is that forcing a boy to gabble over a creed which he don't understand and cannot believe is essentially irreligious. The Radicals in the House must look to this objectionable clause.

The *Spectator* of last Saturday tells us that the Scotch right of hypothec is the right of the landlord to be paid rent before any other creditor can get anything. Begging pardon for contradicting so high an authority, it is nothing of the sort. In every part of the United Kingdom the landlord's security upon the goods of his tenant takes precedence of all other claims, except the claim of the Crown for taxes; but in Scotland the goods of the tenant are hypothecated, or pledged, to the landlord, and cannot be alienated till his rent be paid. The meaning of the legal term hypothecation is a pledging without parting with immediate possession, differing in this last particular from the simple pledge. Until lately the landlord could follow his tenant's goods—that is, if A., owing rent, had sold stock to B., the landlord could still seize it. This power was taken away by an Act which Mr. Baxter got passed. Mr. Carnegie has introduced a bill to abolish the law of hypothec altogether, and thus assimilate the law of Scotland to that of the rest of the United Kingdom.

There are certain prying Treasury Commissioners going about our public offices just now, and very terrible people they are, turning their bull's-eyes into every hole and corner of official expenditure. They have been to the two Houses of Parliament, and the result is, it is said, that all fees received at the House of Lords shall be in future paid into the Treasury. Hitherto the Peers have kept the receipts and expenditure entirely under their control, without rendering any account. If the receipts were more than sufficient to pay the expenses, they kept the balance, carrying it on to the next year's account. If the receipts were insufficient, the House of Commons, without question, furnished the necessary balance. This is to be altered. The moneys received are to be paid into the Treasury, and the House of Commons will, on estimates being delivered, vote the sum of the expenses, and all accounts of both Houses are to be sent to the Audit Office.

A paragraph containing a curious blunder has been going the round of the daily papers this week. It is therein stated that "Mr. Cardwell, First Lord of the Admiralty," has consented to allow a division of the Fleet to take part in the Easter Monday volunteer review at Dover. I do not know from what source this paragraph emanated, or who is responsible for first making the mistake; but surely the proud readers of the daily papers, to say nothing of sub-editors, might have known that Mr. Cardwell is Secretary for War, and Mr. Childers First Lord of the Admiralty.

The following passage occurs in an article in the last number of *Will o' the Wisp*:—"Mr. John Bright, best friend of Mr. Gladstone, and general adviser to the Ministry, has so far made a trade of politics that he has managed to wriggle himself into office and an increase of income to the tune of £2000 a year! How far the interests of his family have been sacrificed under the circumstances an intelligent public will best understand; we should be quite willing to pass through an equally distressing process for a like consideration." There is not the slightest doubt of it. By-the-by, has it never occurred to the editor that he has chosen a rather unfortunate title for his journal? *Will o' the Wisp* is a thing that leads astray (see Burns on "Spunkies," the same thing); and will o' the wisp in journalism may be as delusive to those who follow it as in the form of phosphorescent emanations from a morass.

I am glad to observe that the directors of the Crystal Palace have not been deterred by any difficulties from continuing the instruction element in their programme for which I have so often pleaded, and which has hitherto been so successfully introduced. A course of free popular and scientific lectures, including dramatic readings and recitals, is now in course of delivery, every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The inaugural lecture was by Dr. Thomas Wood, F.R.S., a gentleman of recognised scientific attainments, on a "Bottle of Soda-water: its Properties and Manufacture." The subject was very skillfully handled by Dr. Wood, and interspersed with a variety of chemical experiments, affording not only considerable amusement, but a fund of useful information to a large and appreciative audience.

An amateur theatrical performance, in aid of the funds of King's College Hospital, is announced to take place at the Gallery of Illustration, Regent-street, to-day, Feb. 27. The performance will include Mr. H. J. Byron's comedy of "One Hundred Thousand Pounds;" after which Macfarren's song, "Nobody's Nigh," and a ballad, "The Forsaken;" to conclude with J. Maddison Morton's farce of "To Paris and Back for Five Pounds."

I learn that we are about to have a new dramatic, or rather equestrian, sensation. It is said that a young and rather prepossessing lady of an old and highly-respectable English family will make her appearance at one of the West-End Theatres, at Easter, in an equestrian drama of great magnificence, and abounding in wonderful and sensational effects. The young lady, rumour adds, is well known in the hunting-field as one of the most fearless and daring of riders.

The new volumes of Debbett's "Peerage" and "Baronetage with Knightage" of the United Kingdom have just appeared, and are, as usual, thoroughly up to the mark as regards the fulness, the accuracy, and the lateness of their information. The proper merit of a peerage or other work of reference of the

same kind is, that it shall be accurate in its statements and brought up to the latest date in its information; and, so far as a cursory inspection of the new editions of Debbett's "Peerage" and "Baronetage with Knightage" for 1893 (Dean and Son, Ludgate-hill) has permitted me to test the former quality, I can find nothing to tarnish the high reputation of these standard works for strict accuracy and copiousness of facts. The second characteristic merit—namely, that the volumes shall embody the latest changes in the personnel of the nobility—can best be ascertained by reference to a very few recent alterations by death or promotion in the ranks of the Peerage. We find in the "Peerage" a record of the elevation of Lord Napier of Magdala, of Lord Hatherley, and of Viscountess Beaconsfield, with memoirs and heraldic notabilia in all cases; and in the "Baronetage with Knightage," the advancement of Sir Maziere Brady and Sir Digby Wyatt are chronicled. These instances show with what care Debbett is kept up to the mark of contemporary history, and how implicitly it may be trusted as a work of reference to which all of us have occasion from time to time to resort.

#### THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

One of the very best books the year has seen, and one of the most attractive to readers who take an interest in passing affairs and public characters, without aiming at gathering for themselves exact knowledge or complete estimates of men and events as they pass, is Harriet Martineau's "Biographical Sketches," just published by Macmillan and Co. It is a collection of biographical papers published by her in the *Daily News* during the course of her long connection with it, and has been very carefully edited by Mr. J. R. Robinson, who belongs to that journal. The volume includes all kinds of people—the Emperor Nicholas, Macaulay, Mrs. Opie, Miss Berry, De Quincey, Walter Savage Landor, Sidney Herbert, Lord Palmerston, Lord Brougham, Mrs. Jameson, and scores of others, and is, from every point of view, delightful reading. Now and then I think the lady a little severe; but it is with the severity of Brutus, not of one who keeps two standards by which to gauge men and things. Her style is singularly lucid, and her power of compression and grouping extraordinary. Merely as studies for inexperienced writers, these memoirs are a valuable contribution to our literature, and I should think it probable they will run through many editions.

The place to see literary great guns, or, as Mr. Hannay calls them, "those big cocks, you know," was the Hanover-square Rooms, on the occasion of Mr. Robert Buchanan's first public reading in London. From Mr. Robert Browning and Lord Houghton downwards, or laterally, or as you please, since Literature is a Republic, the room was full of faces more or less known in the world of letters and of art. Mr. Buchanan is going to give another reading on Wednesday, March 3; and, as London is now full, it is to be expected that the place will again be all ablaze with beauty and brains (I flatter myself that is rather sensational!), especially as the programme is new—except that "Tim O'Hara's Wake" is to be retained, because it is such a "hit."

#### THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Watts Phillips's comedy, "Paper Wings," is certainly a good piece of its class; but it is not strong enough to stand alone, without decent scenery and without decent acting. It is a comedy of an accepted type, but the type is not a modern one by any means. Mr. Tom Taylor and, more recently, Mr. Robertson have schooled the minds of playgoers to something like natural dialogue, if not altogether to natural situations; and the stilted talk of the comedies of which "Paper Wings" may be taken as a fair specimen, sounds much more forced and unnatural than it did ten or fifteen years since. Modern comedy-writers of the best school have also learnt to eschew those once inevitable nuisances, the comic footman and the comic chambermaid—two characters who are allowed to run rampant in all the front scenes of Mr. Phillips's comedy. But, in criticising a comedy written ten years or so ago, it is perhaps unfair to set up the acquirements of more modern audiences as the test by which it should be judged. As an example, then, of its class, "Paper Wings" is certainly a good piece. The object of the story—to show up the folly of making investments in speculative companies—is well kept in view throughout; the characters have well-marked individualities; and the dialogue, marred as it is by conventional, high-flown stage-talk, is, nevertheless, in many parts considerably above the average standard of modern comedy. The piece is disgracefully put upon the stage at the OLYMPIC, and the cast is not at all satisfactory. The part of the speculating Baronet sits easily enough on Mr. Neville's shoulders; but poor Miss Furtado is sadly hampered with that of Mrs. Wormington Wylie, the clever middle-aged sister of the scheming stockbroker who endeavours to work the Baronet's ruin. Mr. Horace Wigan makes little of Jonathan Garroway, the stockbroker; and the preposterous behaviour of Mr. J. G. Taylor as a comic footman would go far to ruin a much better piece than "Paper Wings."

I have received a letter from Mr. Alfred Howard, the father of the clever little child who made her London debut at the PRINCESS's last week as the Dauphin in "Marie Antoinette." It seems that I accidentally described her as Miss Kate Howard, whereas her name is Lydia. As there is a Kate Howard (who is also a baby actress), it is only fair both to Lydia and to Kate that their identities should not be confounded. Mr. Howard, in reference to my remark that the little girl (who is five years old) should have been in bed hours before the curtain rose, assures me that she does not suffer the least inconvenience by following her profession, and that if it overtaxed her in any way he would not allow her to follow it. The little child is only five years old; surely that is a fact that speaks for itself.

Mr. P. B. Phillips, the son of Dr. Samuel Phillips, of the Times, gave another reading, at Brixton, last Wednesday, from the works of divers living and dead authors. Mr. Phillips is decidedly an acquisition to our corps of public readers. He has a very musical voice and a delicate appreciation of character and of humour. He reads like an educated gentleman, and, while he gives full force to the humorous passages in his selections, he does not attempt to overdo them. His reading of "Major Namby"—a paper from *Household Words*—is admirable.

THE TORY GOVERNMENT AND ITS COMIC PAPER.—A correspondence which has just been published by Mr. Hamilton Hume, editor of *Will o' the Wisp*, a comic weekly paper, which was started in the Conservative interest during the elections, throws some light on the relations between the late Government and the press. Mr. Corry, it appears, endowed the print in question with a subsidy from the public purse of £43 6s. 8d., the price of 100 copies a week, for circulation among the Fleet on foreign stations. About the time when a change of Government took place, the order for these copies was countermanded, and the editor of *Will o' the Wisp* at once assumed that this was an act of political spite on the part of the new Ministry, and attacked them accordingly. It turns out, however, that the order was cancelled on Dec. 14, and Mr. Childers did not take office till the 23rd of that month, and knew nothing about the matter except from a letter written by Mr. Hamilton Hume himself quoting a passage from a letter written by Mr. Gladstone's secretary, explaining that his paper was "discontinued before the present Board of Admiralty came into office, not because it was a Conservative organ, but on account of its vulgarity and scurrility," and to this statement the writer still adheres. However that may be, Mr. Childers had, apparently, nothing to do with the matter, and it is certainly not difficult to conceive that the late Government may have had their own reasons for thinking that the transactions had better not remain open for the too curious investigation of their successors. It is to be hoped that the question, trifling as it is in itself, will not be allowed to rest here. A strict and impartial inquiry into the newspaper patronage of the late Government would, if all tales be true, produce some rather astonishing results.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

TERRIBLE DOMESTIC TRAGEDY IN FRANCE.—On Saturday evening Baron Brayer, inhabiting, with his wife and son, aged fourteen, a private residence in the Rue Lafayette, Grenoble, was shot by his wife, the Baroness, armed with a revolver. The unfortunate woman, reported as mad, instantly fired on her son, whom she shot through the heart. Turning the revolver on herself, she blew out her brains. When the servants, on hearing three successive reports, rushed into the apartment, they found three corpses bathed in blood.



## THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS BILL.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER'S bill begins with definitions and other preliminary matter, in the course of which it is provided that the Act is to apply to any school (not being a grammar school or a school of an endowed school) which, at the commencement of the Act, is in the receipt of an annual grant from the Government. The bill then proceeds to provide for the reorganisation of endowed schools. Commissioners, not exceeding three, are to be appointed by the Crown for this temporary work, the salaries to be fixed by Treasury. The Commissioners are to have power to prepare schemes for rendering any educational endowment most conducive to the advancement of education, and to alter trusts, directions, or provisions affecting such endowments, or make new ones, consistent with the objects of the endowment, and alter the constitution and governing bodies, or establish new governing bodies, but in schemes abolishing or modifying the privileges of particular classes, whether as inhabitants of a particular district or otherwise, the Commissioners are to have due regard to the educational interests of such class of persons. The Commissioners are to provide in any scheme for saving, or making compensation for the following vested interests:—1, The pecuniary interest of any boy who was at the time of the passing of the Act on the foundation of any endowed school, so far as respects interest in such foundation during his continuance at school; 2, The interest of any such boy in any preference to or right of appointment for any exhibition which may be given away within a year after the passing of this Act; 3, The tenure by any person of any exhibition which was held by him at the time of the passing of the Endowed Schools Act, 1868, and does not form part of the interest of a boy on the foundation before in this section mentioned; 4, Such interest as any teacher or officer in any endowed school or educational endowment appointed to his office before the passing of the Endowed Schools Act, 1868, may have, as any person may have, in any pension or compensation allowance to which he was entitled at the passing of the Endowed Schools Act, 1868, and the amount of which is not in the discretion of the governing body, or such interest as any member of the governing body of any educational endowment appointed to his office before the passing of the Endowed Schools Act, 1868, may have in any emolument payable to him as such, or in any right of patronage which has a marketable value, and is capable of being sold by him. It is also provided that nothing in this part of the Act shall authorise the making of any scheme interfering—1, with any endowment originally given to charitable use, less than thirty years before the commencement of this Act, without the consent of the governing body of such endowment; 2, with any school wholly maintained out of the endowment of any cathedral or collegiate church, or being part of the foundation, without the consent of the Dean or Chapter of such church; or, 3, with any school or exhibition (other than one restricted to any schools, or school or district) forming part of the foundation of any college in Oxford or Cambridge, without the consent of such college. The bill then proceeds to provide for the abolition of the jurisdiction of the ordinary. The schemes are to provide for the dismissal at pleasure of every teacher and officer. Endowments applicable to apprenticeship fees or for advancement in life are to be deemed educational endowments; and the Commissioners may also, if the Charity Commissioners certify that it is desirable, apply for the advancement of education endowments, with incomes applicable to giving burses in money or kind, paying marriage portions, redemption of prisoners and captives, relief of poor prisoners for debt, loans, or objects, which have failed altogether or have become insignificant in comparison with the magnitude of the endowment, if originally given to charitable uses in or before the year 1800. Schemes proposed by the Commissioners are to be published, and for two months the Commissioners are to receive objections and suggestions, a public local inquiry is then to be held before finally settling a scheme. When settled it will require the approval of the Committee of Council on Education, and the governing body or any person directly affected may petition against a scheme as not making due provision for vested interests, or not in conformity with this Act. An approved scheme is finally to be laid before Parliament, and may not be adopted if either House disapproves it. But schemes relating to endowments under £100 a year gross income need not be laid before Parliament. When approved a scheme is to have effect as if enacted in this Act. Where a scheme abolishes any restriction which makes any exhibition tenable only at a particular college or hall in any University, and the exhibition is payable out of property held by such college, or by the University in trust for such college or hall (otherwise than as governing body of a school, or as a bare trustee), the scheme shall not be finally approved if not less than two thirds of the governing body of such college or hall dissent from it in writing. The salaries and expenses incurred in carrying into effect this part of the Act are to be provided by Parliament. No scheme is to be approved after 1873.

Thus far the bill is temporary. Clauses now follow of a permanent character. They provide for the appointment of an Educational Council of twelve, six nominated by the Privy Council and six (two each) by the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London, the members to be chosen triennially. They are to make rules for conducting the examination of teachers and scholars, and grant certificates of fitness for teaching. The expenses incurred by this council are to be defrayed out of a fund to be raised by fees for examining teachers applying for certificates, and by a percentage, not exceeding five per cent, on the fees for instruction paid by scholars in endowed schools and private registered schools, or by a like sum from the revenues of the schools where scholars are exempt from fees. After a date to be fixed, not earlier than 1870, no person is to be capable of being appointed to the office of teacher in any endowed school, including that of principal teacher, if he or she does not possess, according to the character of the school, or the nature of the instruction to be given by such teacher, a certificate of fitness granted under this part of the Act, or a certificate issued under the authority of the Committee of Council on Education. The bill concludes with the following clauses relating to private schools:—

62. The proprietor or other persons having the management of any school, not being an endowed school, may enter such school on a register to be kept for that purpose by the Educational Council.

63. A registered school, so long as it complies with the conditions of registry, shall be entitled to the following privileges:—1, Its scholars may be examined and the names of the successful ones published under the authority of the Educational Council; 2, Its scholars may compete for any exhibition which are open for competition among endowed schools of the district in which they might compete for exhibitions if the school were an endowed school, subject to the following qualifications:—(a) The school shall, in the opinion of the Educational Council, be of the same character as the endowed schools for the scholars of which the exhibition is intended; (b) The limits of age of the competing scholars shall be the same as those imposed on the endowed schools and the scholars therein for whom the exhibition is intended.

64. The conditions of registry of a school are as follow:—1, The school shall be open at all times for the examination of its scholars, under the authority of the Educational Council. In the same manner as endowed schools, so long as it complies with the conditions of registry, shall be entitled to the following privileges:—1, Its scholars may be examined and the names of the successful ones published under the authority of the Educational Council; 2, Its scholars may compete for any exhibition which are open for competition among endowed schools of the district in which they might compete for exhibitions if the school were an endowed school, subject to the following qualifications:—(a) The school shall, in the opinion of the Educational Council, be of the same character as the endowed schools for the scholars of which the exhibition is intended; (b) The limits of age of the competing scholars shall be the same as those imposed on the endowed schools and the scholars therein for whom the exhibition is intended.

## MR. PEABODY'S GIFTS TO THE POOR OF LONDON.

The following is the statement of the trustees for the year 1868:—

Mr. Peabody, in his letter to the trustees, in January, 1866, having expressed his wish that once in each year a statement of the receipts and expenditure incident to his donations to the poor of London should be communicated to the public, the following report is made in compliance with his desire.

The annexed account shows that the original fund of £150,000 has been increased by rents and interest on unexpended capital to the extent of £23,313 9s. 3d., making the sum total at the end of December, 1868, £173,313 9s. 3d., in land, buildings, and cash in hand.

During the year which has just ended a fourth range of buildings, forming what is now known as Peabody-square, was erected in Victoria-street, Westminster. They were completed at the end of December, and contain 235 rooms, fully occupied by 389 individuals. There is a large list of applications for future vacancies.

The total population of all the buildings now completed by the trustees is 1971. These comprise the families of working men, the nature of whose employments is as follows:—

Bakers ...	7	Engine-drivers ...	2	Recruiting ser-	
Beadle of a market ...	1	Engine-turners ...	3	geants ...	2
Beltmaker ...	1	French polisher ...	1	Riggers ...	3
Boiler-makers ...	3	Gas-meter maker ...	1	Ropemakers ...	4
Blacksmiths ...	22	Glasscutters ...	2	Sailmakers ...	2
Brewer ...	1	Harness-maker ...	1	Ship-keepers ...	2
Brewers' draymen ...	2	Joiners ...	2	Ship-scraper ...	1
Bricklayers ...	3	Labourers ...	132	Shipwrights ...	6
Brushmakers ...	2	Laundresses ...	2	Shoemakers ...	21
Cab-drivers ...	3	Lightermen ...	3	Shopmen ...	4
Candlemaker ...	1	Litter-carriers ...	10	Staymaker ...	1
Carmen ...	15	Machinist ...	1	Stevadores ...	3
Carpenters ...	7	Mariners ...	19	Tailors ...	9
Charwomen ...	22	Masons ...	3	Tide-waiters ...	3
Commissionaires ...	2	Messengers ...	11	Timekeepers ...	2
Compositors ...	6	Milk-carrier ...	1	Tinplate worker ...	1
Cook ...	1	Millwright ...	1	Umbrella-maker ...	1
Coopers ...	5	Painters ...	7	Upholsterer ...	1
Corkcutters ...	3	Park-keepers ...	3	Watchmakers ...	7
Draymen ...	3	Plumber ...	1	Watchmen ...	3
Dressmakers and		Police-men ...	17	Window-blind	
needlewomen ...	18	Porters ...	62	maker ...	1

The average wages earned by these working men are rather under 21s. a week. A few earn something more, and many less, according to the nature and permanence of their employment.

In the organisation and management of these buildings it has been the study of the trustees to impose no restriction on the entire freedom of action of any tenant, so far as is consistent with the comfort and convenience of all; there are no rules which interfere in the slightest degree with their privacy or independence; all have uninterrupted ingress and egress at all hours, as fully masters of their houses, and can live in as much seclusion and retirement as if dwelling in any other building in the adjacent streets.

The sanitary condition of the buildings shows an entire exemption from endemic diseases and from those complaints incident to low and crowded localities. Good ventilation and cleanliness are characteristic of the dwellings. An unlimited supply of water, and bath-rooms free to every tenant, together with inclosed playgrounds for the children, have already produced a salutary effect, not only among the young, but perceptibly in the increased tidiness and cleanliness of the old.

The trustees have possessed themselves of two other sites, at Chelsea and Bermondsey, and are devising plans for the erection of buildings thereon and elsewhere. Into these it is their earnest hope to be able to introduce such improvements in construction as the opinion already gained has shown to be desirable for the further promotion of health, convenience, and economy, thus enabling them to secure for the class for whose advantage the trust is intended the fullest enjoyment of comfortable dwellings in the vicinity of their habitual employment, at the lowest possible rent consistent with the injunction of Mr. Peabody, that the fund should be so managed as to render it reproductive and perpetual.

Under the second trust deed of January, 1866, Mr. Peabody placed in the hands of the trustees a further sum of £100,000. This, in accordance with his letter announcing the gift, will become available for objects of the trust in July of the present year.

To this second trust Mr. Peabody, on Dec. 5 last, made a further donation of the value of £100,000, which is comprised in a valuable tract of land at Brixton of about fifteen acres, costing £16,311 16s. 3d., 5642 shares in the Hudson's Bay Stock, and cash £3405 to complete the £100,000. This makes the amount of Mr. Peabody's gifts £350,000, and enables the trustees to carry out on a still more extensive scale the benevolent intentions of the donor.

The cost of the general management of the funds during the year was—for salaries, printing, stationery, &c., £271 10s. 6d.

The fiscal statement of the first trust from its commencement to the end of December, 1868, is as follows:—

DEBIT.					
Original fund ...	...	...	...	£150,000	0 0
Interest earned ...	...	...	...	15,756	7 9
Rents ...	...	...	...	7,557	1 6
Total ...	...	...	...	£173,313	9 3

CREDIT.					
Paid for land and buildings ...	...	...	...	£151,194	17 1
Expense account ...	...	...	...	1,436	11 3
Cash at interest ...	...	...	...	15,000	0 0
Ditto in Bank of England ...	...	...	...	5,682	0 11
Total ...	...	...	...	£173,313	9 3

## SIMILAR STATEMENT OF THE SECOND TRUST.

DEBIT.					
Original fund ...	...	...	...	£100,000	0 0
Further donation ...	...	...	...	100,000	0 0
Interest earned ...	...	...	...	3,259	3 11
Total ...	...	...	...	£203,259	3 11

CREDIT.					
Hudson's Bay shares ...	...	...	...	£78,282	15 0
Consols ...	...	...	...	46,375	0 0
Brixton estate ...	...	...	...	16,311	16 3
Expense account ...	...	...	...	79	10 0
Cash at interest ...	...	...	...	50,000	0 0
Cash in Bank of England ...	...	...	...	12,210	2 8
Total ...	...	...	...	£203,259	3 11

The trustees wish it to be observed that by far the most serious item in the outgoings for these properties is that for local and parochial taxes, amounting to £744 10s. 6d. per annum, a charge which, they regret to say, is still increasing, and which injuriously interferes with their means of usefulness.

February, 1869.

H. G. SOMERBY, Secretary.

LORD LYTON has sent £10 to the fund which is being raised for the widow and family of Mr. Ernest Jones—not, as Lord Lyton explains in a letter promising the donation, because there was any political sympathy between the late Mr. Jones and himself, but because he honours the deceased gentleman for his disinterestedness, and feels a sincere compassion for his family, besides recognising in him a fellow-craftsman in literature.

THE LATE PRINCESS BACIOCCHI.—The seals have just been taken off the property of Princess Baciocchi, in presence of Marshal Vaillant and M. Chas-signe-Goyon, who had represented the Emperor and the Council of State respectively at the funeral. The family papers have been brought to the Emperor, and among them are said to be forty-five different volumes containing notes made by Napoleon I. at St. Helena. The Princess, besides her property in Brittany, possessed an estate at Trieste, which produces a revenue of 100,000*l.* a year; the whole being left to the Prince Imperial.

## THE CONVENT CASE IN AND OUT OF COURT.

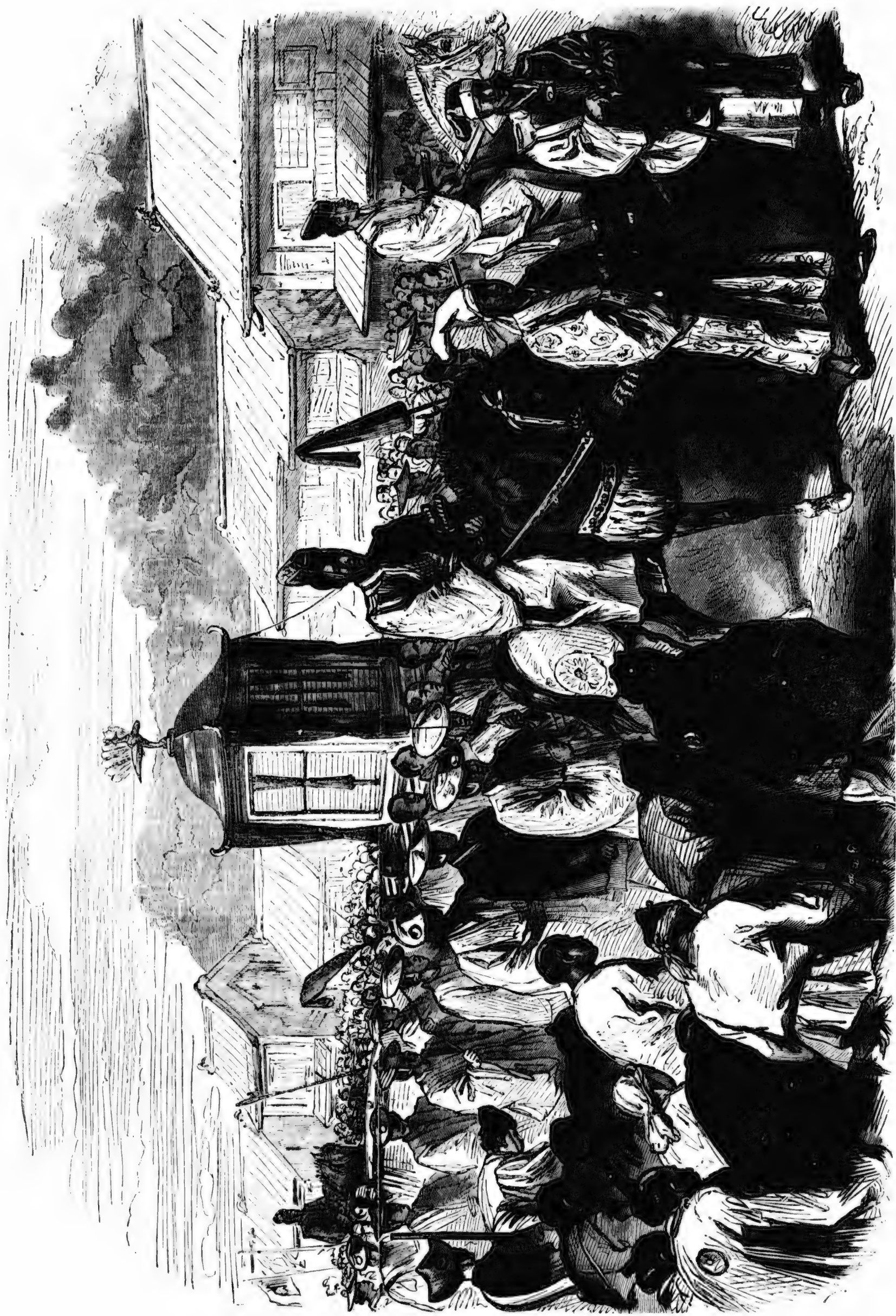
WHAT have been called the "childish details" of this case seemed to culminate on Tuesday, when, following Miss Saurin's examination, which was over before eleven a.m., little girls and boys were called on to declare whether they were or were not punished for school faults committed five years ago. The lobbies of the court were like a playground for a great part of the morning. Infants of ten were playing at bo-peep from behind the stalwart legs of metropolitan policemen or plucking at the ever-courteous usher's gown to share that good man's smile. These were the witnesses. The apple and "good stuff" stall, which stands within the first door leading to the Court of Queen's Bench from Westminster Hall, was watched with intense and longing interest by the tiny things who were permitted to while away their weary time of waiting, and the patter of little feet and the sound of childish laughter gave a new life to the staid and dull approaches of the ancient tribunal over which the Lord Chief Justice presides. The average age of these witnesses appeared to be ten, and as their size precluded their seeing or being seen when deposited in the box, they were considerably lifted out like dolls and placed close to Sir Alexander Cockburn by the judgment seat. There does not seem anything particularly comic in a gentle girl of tender years being questioned and requested by skilled casuists and rhetoricians, and having at the same time to preserve her composure in the face of a crowded court. Perhaps it might even occur to some minds that the situation was one for sympathy rather than merriment, and that any interruption calculated to disconcert would only add to the painfulness of a position already sufficiently embarrassing. But no such opinion was entertained or acted on by the sightseers with which the place is filled day after day. Hours of indecent laughter, faces eagerly looking for amusement, and apparently finding it in the speaker's innocence and youth, whispered interruptions and bursts of mirth, which made one wonder at the Judge's tolerance, marked this portion of the proceedings; and the utter absence of proper feeling on the part of the public was once more the most questionable of the many questionable revelations which have marked this tedious, weary trial. Who are the people who succeed in planting themselves on the benches behind the barristers' seats? The womenfolk are in a majority of some three to one; yet there are strong and resolute men who have failed day after day to effect an entrance, and not the least curious experience to be gained from an attendance at this court is that you recognise the same faces in the seats, and the same faces among the rejected in Westminster Hall and in the yard outside each time you visit it. The principle of selection is evidently applied; but how and by whom? Is it the loudest laughter, the dullest wit, those most impervious to considerations of fitness and propriety, who are admitted after a competitive examination instituted *sub rosa* by the officers of the court? At once turbulent and insane, these spectators are habitually guilty of breaches of decorum which make a bystander aghast; and it would be interesting to know precisely the limits in which contempt of Court may be indulged in with impunity by men and women who determine to treat grave judicial proceedings as an indecent practical joke.

Bench and Bar vied with each other in their kind consideration for the children they questioned; but, in spite of this, the incongruity of the contrast between—say an eager gentleman in wig and gown, bristling with acuteness, and leaning anxiously forward like a grey and animated note of interrogation—between a professional luminary such as this and the little figure piping forth its answers in a childish treble in front of him, seemed very marked. Even the three nuns present smiled in unison, while the kind eyes and fair face of Mrs. Melligan lit up in kindly recognition as child after child was produced and handed back. Mrs. Starr, the sister already named, and a third lady in conventual habit, sat with their backs to the barristers and the public and their faces in the direction of the Lord Chief Justice and the witness-box, during our stay, and were the only sisters we saw in court. Their interest in the proceedings was clearly of a vigilant order, for when one little boy was placed in the witness-box, whispers and a hasty note were promptly passed with the attorney sitting next them, who in his turn communicated with Mr. Mellish behind and above, who forthwith made the portentous announcement: "My Lord, I am instructed that this is the wrong boy." Then came a brief discussion, in which Sir John Coleridge and Mr. Wills appeared disposed to insist upon the identity of "the boy whose name was Andrew;" whereupon Mr. Mellish rose again, and, addressing the Bench with oracular solemnity, said—"My Lord, I am informed that the rightful Andrew has red hair." This virtually settled the question, for the urchin before us—who evidently regarded the whole proceedings with a lively horror, and had visions of being ordered off for instant execution, had a shock head of dark brown. However, Mrs. Melligan was appealed to, and rising in her nun's dress, declared in a very pleasant voice that this was not the boy she had referred to in her evidence, so the youth was set free, to his great relief, and the matter dropped. All the children examined declared they had been kindly treated; and the Mrs. O'Brien, whose little boy's dinner and its alleged abstraction in 1862 formed one of the subjects of inquiry, appeared to be so confused at the thought of giving evidence at all that neither the Lord Chief Justice nor the Solicitor-General, whose witness she was, professed themselves able to understand her. All this time Miss Saurin sat veiled and motionless, as previously described. Her thick black covering effectually hides her features; and, beyond hazarding a guess that she is spare and thin, the most acute observer who saw her when not absolutely giving evidence would be puzzled to say what her personal appearance really is. The fashionable and pretty young lady who has sat by her throughout the proceedings, and whose quiet amusement at some of the answers given is, it is to be hoped, some compensation for the hours and days of boredom she has undergone, is surely the most devoted of sisters to have borne patiently with the iterations which press as a heavy burden even upon those whose business it is to advance them and to analyse their merits. But signs and symptoms are not wanting of flagging interest. Neither Father Porter, who attracted much attention from the frequency with which his name has been used, nor Canon Walker, whose mild and benignant countenance was one of the most notable in court, were to be seen on Tuesday morning; and, indeed, Father Mathews, the plaintiff's uncle, was at that time the solitary representative left of the little crowd of ecclesiastics who filled up the space between the bar and the bench, while Father Goldy, the Bishop's secretary, was examined and cross-examined last Saturday. The latter reverend gentleman is a good-looking, fresh-coloured, young priest, with a bright eye and a ready smile, who seemed fully alive to the importance of his own evidence and capable of giving it sonorously and confidently forth. But it is Father Mathews who seems to represent unflinching watchfulness and determination best. He never tires. A hard-headed, elderly man, whose square head and powerful jaw bespeak a strong will, an impression confirmed by his resolute glances whenever a new witness comes in or there is a change in the aspect of affairs—this father may occasionally busy himself with a newspaper, but it is obvious that his real attention is riveted to what is going on around. The jury, on the other hand, show signs of the weariness they must feel. They change their position as restlessly as the limited space accorded to each man will allow. They fidget on their seats, and, when one of the three nuns present lifts her face from her note-book to use a blue check duster as a pocket-handkerchief, they seem to observe this simple incident as if it were an agreeable break in the monotony.

The snow on Monday thinned the crowd outside, which did not regain its former large proportions on Tuesday; and if it were possible to restrict admissions to those capable of conducting themselves properly, we are far from sure that the court itself would be fuller.

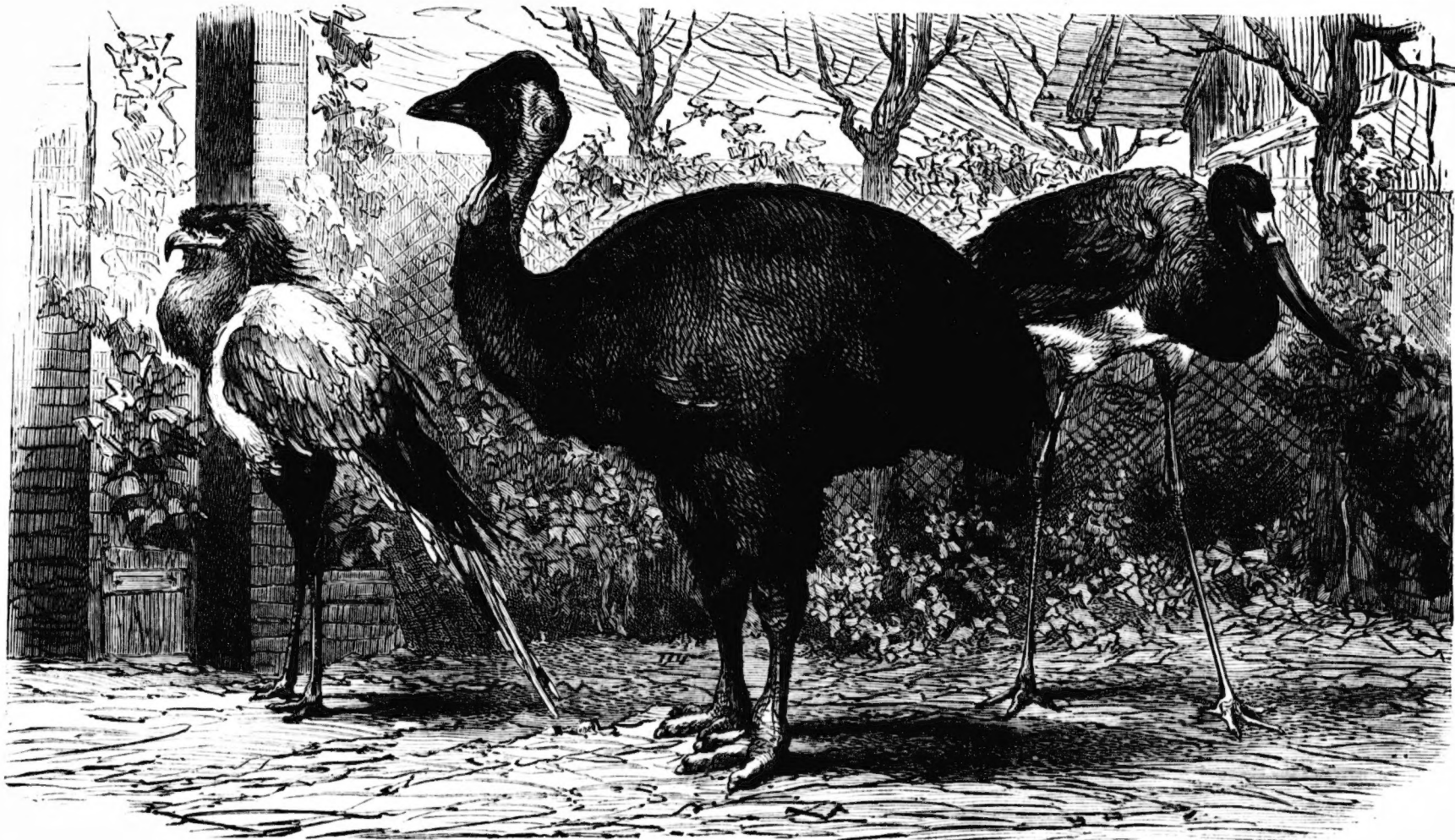
THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PAUPERS IN THE METROPOLIS in the second week of the present month was 152,759, a decrease of 9550 upon the number in the corresponding period of last year.





THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN ON HIS WAY FROM MIAKO TO JEDDO.





SERPENT-EATER.

CASSOWARY, OR HOODED EMU

JABIRU.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE JARDIN DES PLANTES, PARIS.

## RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE JARDIN DES PLANTES, PARIS.

We have from time to time published some account of those interesting strangers who have recently been brought to this country to take up their abode in the Zoological Gardens; and our illustrations this week are intended to convey to our readers the information that some new foreign inmates, of considerable pretensions, have been added to the admirable ornithological group in the Jardin des Plantes. The first of these, known as the Messenger, or serpentaire, is a severe and military-looking personage, whose habits in his native condition, in India and Southern Africa, may be described both as executive and predatory, since he applies himself to the destruction of serpents, rats, toads, and other vermin, and at the same time takes a kind of black mail by the attachment of stray fowls, ducks, and other dainties, his appetite being remarkably keen and characterised by a noble impartiality. He is a kind of black watch or Highland chieftain, and possesses a truly military, although a rather ragged and ill-found, appearance. His beak resembles that of the eagle, being sharp and crooked; and when he is at liberty, he attacks his prey with soldier-like courage and intelligence. The present inhabitant of this species at the Jardin des Plantes is not the first of his family who has lived in that pleasant retreat. His predecessor, however, had a sad accident, by which he broke his leg, and, being furnished with a wooden one in place of his damaged limb, used to

stump about like a plucky old pensioner, the sound of whose timber toe could be heard as he paced along.

The hooded cassowary is a native of the Pacific, hailing from New Holland, so that the celebrated lines which say

If I were a cassowary,  
On the plains of Timbuctoo,  
I would eat a missionary,  
Hat, and boots, and hymn-book too,

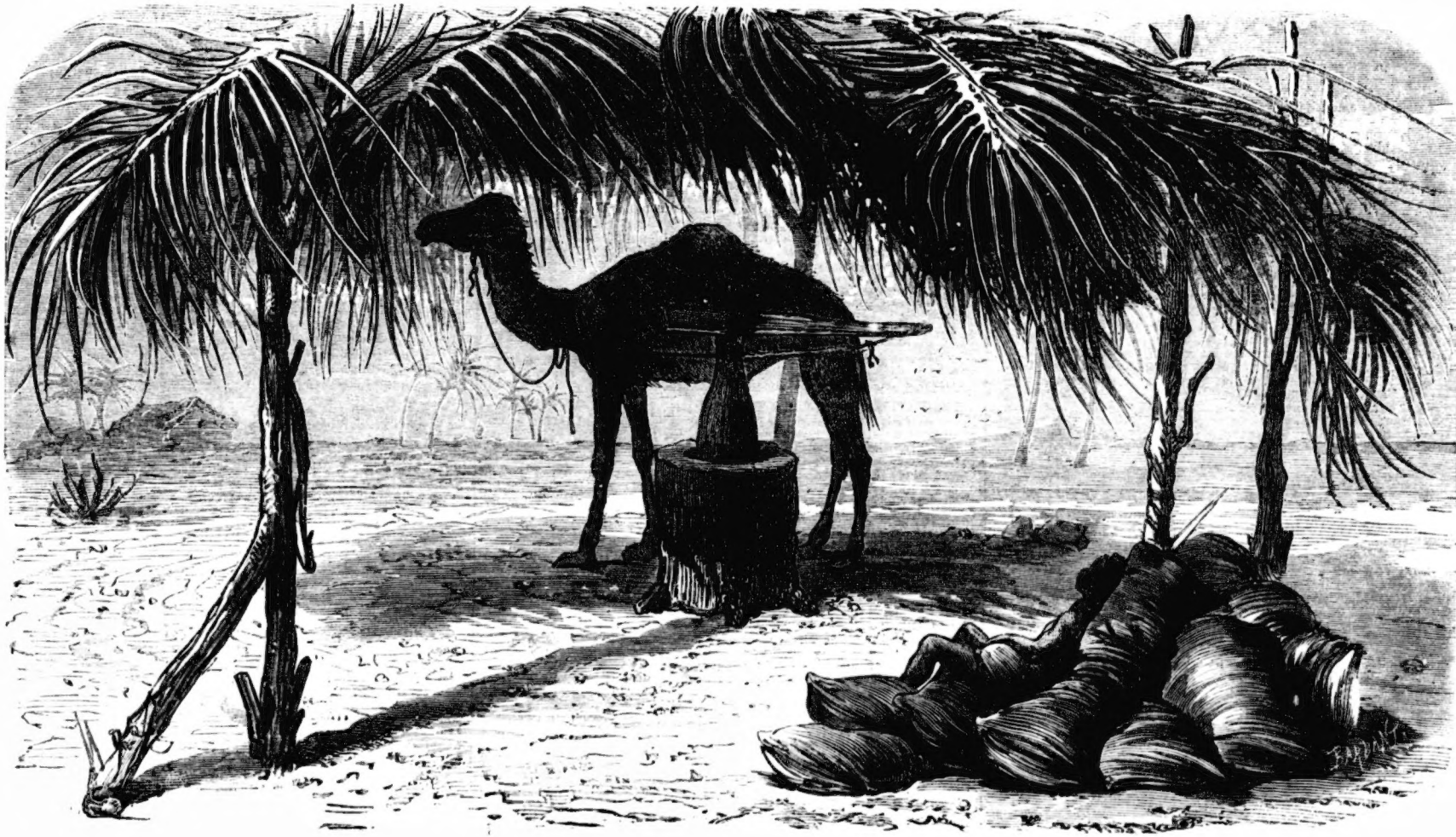
can hardly be said to be distinguished for geographical accuracy of allusion more than for morality of suggestion. The hooded cassowary, however, scarcely looks ferocious enough to have originated any such sentiment, although he is distinguished for inordinate gluttony and stupidity. He belongs to the wingless and almost featherless family of birds, or birds with such small wings and such fleecy plumes that wings and feathers are terms which, when applied to them, scarcely express the usual ideas of those bird-like appendages. There is a large family of these struthionide, however, including the ostrich, apteryx, cassowary, and emu, the two latter names being both used to designate the New Holland variety; and their most remarkable characteristic, which cannot fail to strike the ordinary observer as well as the naturalist, is their close approximation in many respects to the mammalia, as well as to some of the reptile species. The Australian emu, of which the one in our Engraving is an example, somewhat

resembles the ostrich in size and form, but is shorter legged and rather more clumsy in appearance. The colour of the cassowary is a dull brown, mottled with dirty grey, and the legs are a dingy black. The head of the specimen represented in our Engraving is covered with a horny excrescence like a hood, and has wattles something like those of a turkey. Its food consists of vegetables and seeds, but principally of fruits, roots, and herbage. In a state of nature it is very fleet, and was formerly chased with dogs, which are, however, rather shy of its powerful feet, with which it can administer a kick that would break a man's leg.

The jabiru is a native of South America, where he lives in the solitude of the great marshy savannahs, and feeds on insects, fish, and fresh-water molluscs. He may be described as a species of stork, but may always be distinguished from that bird by his enormous tricoloured beak, which is compressed and turned up towards the end; and, altogether, he presents a very strange and truculent appearance.

## THE MIKADO OF JAPAN.

We have already in previous Numbers said as much about Japan as is generally contained in the news that reaches this country; but, as everything is of interest which relates to that wonderful land, so little known and at present so imperfectly



OIL-MAKING AT TERBE, AFRICA.



opened up to European inquiry, we publish an Illustration from a sketch of the most recent event of public importance. After all, we must be indebted to the artist rather than to the writer for accurate knowledge of the costumes, weapons, and general machinery of life in any country comparatively remote and unexplored, and a sketch will often supply the place of a record. Among the facts with which we are familiar in relation to Japan is that of there being two Kings of that country—one of them spiritual, the other temporal; and it is a journey of the first of these, in whom the supreme power is supposed to be vested, that has been the latest event which has reached us. He has made the journey from the temples of Miako, where he is said always to have lived in seclusion, to Jeddo, the seat of the practical Government, and by this act has really altered the Constitution of the country, since he has ceased to be a sacred being, shut up from the world, and has placed himself, nominally at least, at the head of affairs. Our Illustration represents the centre of the cortege preceding and following the Imperial palanquin (which, however, was kept jealously closed) on the route.

#### MAKING SESAME OIL AT TERBE.

HOWEVER intimate we may become with the actual geography of the world, there are places which never lose their romantic interest, and we cannot cease to regard any account of them from travellers with an altogether peculiar sentiment associated with early impressions and historical as well as legendary recollections. It is from these cases that we are always ready to give attention to the adventures and descriptions of visitors to Arabia. We have recently published some Illustrations and descriptions of the barren, sunburnt Aden, and we now produce from the artist's sketch-book an Engraving of a scene in the great district of Yemen, on the coasts of the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf. There is little need to enter into a description of the wild and barren country or the more fertile oases or cultivated spots of land that distinguish this region. As it was in the days of the Patriarchs, so is it now—so little changed that, except for the slow eating of Time, which yet devours states and empires, the traveller might live again in the primitive cities and drink from the very wells that supplied the fathers of the human race. The remains of both are to be discovered, and even the progress of manufacture and the improved methods of preparing food have scarcely reached that conservative land. Our Illustration is a good proof of this, for it represents no less than an oilery—the modern manufacture of seed-oil by means of a mill so primitive that Isaac or Abraham, or even Noah, might have used one quite similar. The only change is, perhaps, that the moderns have taken less responsibility and go calmly to sleep, leaving the motive power to be wholly represented by the patient camel, who, truth to tell, does not seem to be taking it other than easily. The oil which is made in this simple way is from the sesame seed (the very name revives our childhood's stories, and we expect to see Ali Baba and to enter the cavern of the forty thieves by only pronouncing the magic word). The Arab is not an indolent being, he can and does work, and has a great deal of energy; his invention, too, is not altogether sluggish, for, though his implements are simple and he suspects new machinery, they are very effective for his purpose. The sesamum, from which the oil is extracted, bears a long pod containing a number of oval, brown seeds, remarkable for the quantity of oil which they produce. Simpsa is the Egyptian and Arabian name of the best kind of sesamum. The oil is employed as an article of diet in Eastern nations, on which account the seeds form an article of commerce from India and Egypt in the present day. The oil is bland, of a fine quality, and will keep for many years without becoming rancid. It is often used in India as a salad-oil. The leaves of the plant are mucilaginous and are employed for poultices. The natives express the oil as shown in our Engraving. The trunk of a tree fixed in the ground serves as a mortar, in which is fixed a large wooden pestle, so placed that, being fastened to the harness of a camel, it grinds and crushes the seeds, from which the oil is in that way expressed.

**WOOLWICH DOCKYARD.**—The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have decided that, having regard to the possible emergency of war with a great naval Power, it is undesirable to sell her Majesty's dockyard at Woolwich, and it will therefore be accordingly retained by Government. Its inland position, proximity to London, and capabilities for building, repairing, and fitting of vessels, and manufacture and repair of engines, screw-propellers, and boilers, with the impossibility of an enemy anchoring near or shelling the dockyard, are advantages which, in case of hostilities, cannot be parted with, having due regard to the naval position of the country. The Admiralty will, however, be willing to let it to a ship-building firm at an annual rental, subject to the condition that possession can be obtained at any time for Imperial purposes on a compensation being made in respect of the sudden suspension of trade, cessation of employment of a large number of people, and the removal of the ships in process of building, with a view of the yard being handed over for the naval requirements of the country.

**CITY ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL.**—The anniversary festival of this most useful institution was held, on Wednesday evening, at the London Tavern—Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild presiding on the occasion. The hospital was commenced in the year of the Great Exhibition, and has ever since been effecting a vast amount of good in the cure of deformities, especially amongst the children of the poor. The very great diminution in the number of deformed and crippled persons to be seen in the streets may be attributed to the successful treatment of the patients who seek advice at the old house in Hatton-garden where this good work is carried on; and yet we regret to state that the subscription list of the charity will not enable the committee to take a fourth of the number of in-patients for whom there is accommodation. It is a free hospital, no letter of recommendation being required, and above a hundred applicants obtain surgical aid every week. The chairman, in warmly advocating the claims of the charity, took occasion to speak of the very great skill of the surgeons, Mr. E. Chance and Mr. N. H. Stevens, and particularly referred to a case that had come under his notice, where a girl, who had been so dreadfully deformed that more than a slight alleviation was apparently hopeless, was completely cured and, by what seemed an almost miraculous power, made straight and well proportioned. During the dinner subscriptions were announced to the amount of above £600, a considerable proportion of which had been collected by ladies who were present.

**METROPOLITAN BOARD TAXATION.**—On Wednesday afternoon, at a meeting of the representative vestry of St. Pancras, held at the Vestry Hall, Camden Town—Mr. Churchwarden Furniss in the chair—Mr. W. E. Gibb, the vestry clerk, read receipts from the Metropolitan Board of Works for £10,167 8s. 3d. for general expenses of board, and a sum of £1925 18s. for the maintenance of Metropolitan Fire Brigade. It having been moved and seconded that these demands be referred to the finance committee, Mr. Jenkins denounced the centralising projects both of the Government and Metropolitan Board; but said there was a matter of the highest importance in a measure brought into Parliament by Mr. Goschen, which ought to be referred to a committee. He alluded to a bill to equalise the basis of assessment. Nothing could be of greater importance to that parish, when it was found that St. Pancras bore an assessment of little less than one twelfth of the whole metropolis. Mr. Ross agreed with Mr. Jenkins, that the enormous increase in the metropolitan taxation had resulted from the establishment of these centralising institutions such as the Poor-Law Board, the Metropolitan Board, and district asylums boards. It was monstrous that the affairs and taxation of three millions of people should be vested in the Board of Works, constituted as it was by forty members. At a recent meeting of delegates on the gas question, who waited upon the Right Hon. J. Bright, he and his friend Mr. Eldridge laid out the character of the Metropolitan Board pretty plainly, and told Mr. Bright that the people would rather, with all its defects, that the supply of gas remained in the hands of the existing companies than that the board should have control, as in the hands of the latter gas would be dearer and jobbery greater. Mr. T. Taylor said the precept this year was less than in 1867, which was for £12,754 18s. 9d. In 1868 it was £11,637, and now £11,232 12s. 4d., less £1089 in credit for metropolitan improvements. He feared that next year the demands would be higher, and contended that St. Pancras had a right to four instead of two members at the board. Mr. North denounced the fire brigade demands as a downright swindle upon the metropolis, and St. Pancras in particular, which was called upon to pay £2000 per annum for that which they had previously supplied with equal efficiency for £400. The motion was carried. Mr. Cave then moved a resolution, of which he had given notice, denouncing the very large increase of parochial taxation during the last ten years in the metropolis, and that the whole of the other vestries and district boards be invited to send members to a conference to consider what is best to be done to prevent further increase of metropolitan taxation. Mr. Jenkins seconded this resolution, and, after several members had spoken in its support, it was put and carried unanimously.

#### OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE most interesting musical question of the moment is undoubtedly, who is to have the Italian Opera this season? Who, moreover, are to be the singers; how is the orchestra to be composed; who, above all, is to be the conductor? There are, or were, two Italian Operas in London, each of which has of late shown a tendency to gravitate towards the other. There are two managers, who, after an enmity, an opposition, or at least a rivalry, of some years, seemed, a little before the beginning of last season, to have become thoroughly reconciled; for it was agreed between them, on certain conditions never realised, to unite their forces and to blend the two operas into one. The reports of a coming amalgamation between the two great lyrical establishments have of late taken a more consistent shape than ever, the most recent published news on the subject being that the best singers of both companies were to form one admirable company, which would include Mdle. Titiens, Madame Adelina Patti, Mdle. Christine Nilsson, and Madame Trebelli-Bettini; M.M. Mario, Mongini, Graziani, and Santley. Covent Garden was the theatre at which this admirable company was to perform. Mr. Gye and Mr. Mapleson were to be the managers—Mr. Gye playing the dignified part of Colonel, Mr. Mapleson the subordinate but active part of Lieutenant-Colonel. As it was quite possible that difficulties might arise on the subject of the conductorship, the framers of the report arranged, ingeniously enough, but with less regard to fact than to their own fancies, that Signor Costa should conduct one day and Signor Arditi another; and, so as to give a fair chance and full employment to each maestro, it was further decided that the performances should take place every night of the week, Sundays alone excepted. In reference, however, to one part of this cleverly-devised scheme, we now learn that Mr. Costa is by no means satisfied. After it had been positively announced that Mr. Costa had agreed to share his duties with Signor Arditi, it was further announced that he had resigned the post he has so long held at the Royal Italian Opera; and this latter piece of information had scarcely been made public when Costa himself wrote to the papers, saying that he had not resigned his post at all, though, he added—what in the opinion of many persons comes to the same thing—that he had refused an engagement for next season, because it differed in many respects from the engagements signed by him before, and because, in particular, it did not, as heretofore, leave him uncontrolled liberty to select the members of his orchestra and chorus. "A thousand reports," says the *Musical World*, which ought, if any journal is, to be well informed on this subject, "circulate, the latest pretending to explain, but really extra confounding all the rest. We are told that Mr. Mapleson goes to Covent Garden with Mr. Gye, and that Mr. Gye goes to Her Majesty's with Mr. Mapleson; while Mr. Costa refuses to go to either, and Signor Arditi is perfectly ready to go to both. Next, we hear that, preparatory to beginning the campaign at Covent Garden, Mr. Gye dismisses his orchestra, because they refuse to play an extra night or two each week, gratis, at Her Majesty's, and that Mr. Mapleson is anxious to embark his fortunes in the Royal Italian Opera, because, we presume, it is the only one of our three great theatres where he cannot command Mdle. Nilsson to follow him. So the confusion grows, waxing more and more confused. We hope the two managers keep their heads clear; for otherwise there is a danger of each mistaking himself for the other, than which it is not possible to imagine anything more conclusive of derangement."

So much for Anglo-musical news. In the way of musical news interesting to all Europe, the most interesting and important fact is the coming production of Rossini's unpublished mass, which is to be executed for the first time in public next Sunday at the Théâtre Italien, with Madame Albani, Mdle. Krauss, and M.M. Agnesi and Nicolini in the chief parts. The work has been purchased by M. Strakosch, who is superintending all the arrangements for its performance. The mass will be given five or six times in Paris, and we are to have several opportunities of hearing it during the season in London.

**ROYAL GENERAL THEATRICAL FUND.**—The annual general meeting of the friends and subscribers to the above fund was held, on Wednesday, in the saloon of the Lyceum Theatre—Mr. C. H. Stephenson in the chair. Mr. Cullenford, the secretary, read the report, which expressed the regret of the committee that during the past year it had been necessary to draw from the reserve fund to meet the increased disbursements, no less than £1482 having been paid to the annuitants during the year; while the subscriptions, interest on the reserve fund, and profit on the dinner only amounted to little more than £1000. The yearly sources of income had been gradually diverted into other channels of benevolence; but the committee appeal with confidence to the profession and the public for renewed exertions. The annual benefit would be in the shape of a morning performance at the Haymarket Theatre, about the beginning of April; and the annual dinner would be presided over by Mr. Slous, the author of the prize drama of "True to the Core." Mr. Buckstone had also promised to attend on this occasion. The total income for the year, including £543 drawn from the reserve fund, had been £1703 5s. 6d., the whole of which had been expended. The capital was now £13,000.

**TYROLESE SINGERS.**—The first of a series of eight morning performances was given by these singers, in the small room at St. James's Hall, on Monday. A varied programme afforded the audience an opportunity of judging of the versatile powers of these peculiar performers. There are seven singers, who are habited in the peculiar costume of their country. They sing solos, duets, and choruses with an earnestness delightful to see. Some of the pieces partake of a humorous character, and are exceedingly well acted and sung. Apart from the excellence of the singing, it is a cheerful sight to see the good-tempered faces of the vocalists, who seem thoroughly to enter into and enjoy their own music, a feeling which the audience also shared. A waltz arranged for voices, "The Wedding Song," a duet, with Joll chorus, and a humorous solo, "The Lost Sweetheart," were encored; and a solo on the "gigella, an instrument composed of pieces of wood and straw, was also repeated. This instrument is better known in England as the xylophone, and was introduced by Master Bonny at the promenade concerts given by Alfred Mellon at Covent Garden Theatre some year or two back. The Tyrolese instrument is a more musical and less noisy instrument under the hands of the player of Monday—Herr Margreiter—who also showed his skill upon the zither, an instrument somewhat similar to the dulcimer, but played with the fingers instead of muffled hammers. The tone produced from the zither is very sweet and unusual. Altogether, the entertainment given by the Tyrolese singers is very novel and interesting, and will doubtless become exceedingly popular. Their performance on Monday was in every respect successful. The audience was greatly delighted, and departed highly pleased, after hearing a Tyrolese version of the Old English song of "Old King Cole," with his numerous instrumentalists, which concluded the concert.

**THE NATIONAL GALLERY.**—The annual report of the directors of the National Gallery was issued on Wednesday morning. The pictures purchased during the year have been—A picture by Derick Bouts, of Haarlem (commonly called Stuerbont); a large altar-piece by Carlo Crivelli, in thirteen compartments; the sketch by J. S. Copley of his large picture at Guildhall of the "Siege and Relief of Gibraltar," and an unfinished picture of the "Entombment," ascribed to Michael Angelo. Among the pictures received by bequest and donations are portraits of Mr. William Siddons, by Opie, and of Mrs. Sarah Siddons, by Sir T. Lawrence (bequeathed by Mrs. Cecilia Come, Mrs. Siddons's daughter); portraits of Mr. James Baillie, of Ealing, his wife, and four children (bequeathed by Mr. Alexander Baillie, of Naples, in 1857, but, by sanction of the Lords of the Treasury, retained during his life by the testator's nephew, the late Mr. M. J. Higgins); and Haydon's large picture of "The Raising of Lazarus" (presented by Mr. R. E. Loft). The collection at Trafalgar-square was visited during 1868 by 729,645 persons, and that at South Kensington by 881,076. The number of students in oil painting entered during the year was 467, of whom there was a daily average attendance at Trafalgar-square of 35, and at South Kensington of 31; the water-colour students numbered 189, and their average attendance was, at Trafalgar-square, 30; and at South Kensington, 28. One hundred and nine copies were taken of 44 pictures by 31 foreign masters, and 147 copies of 67 pictures by 27 masters of the British school. The pictures by foreign and old masters most frequently copied have been—A Portrait called Gevarthus, 12 times; Madonna in Prayer, 9; Portrait of an Old Lady, 8; Portrait of Philip IV., 6; Head of a Girl, 5; Portrait of a Lady, 5; Venus and Mercury, 4; Portrait of A. del Sarto, by himself, 4; Madonna and Child, 4; "Ecce Homo," 3; St. John and the Lamb, 3; Rembrandt's Portrait, by himself, 3. Of the modern pictures, the Zuyder Zee has been copied 5 times; Age of Innocence, 6; The Surprise, 6; Study of Heads, 5; Uncle Toby, 5; Lake of Como, 5; A Scanty Meal, 5; Cottage Children, 4; The Blind Beggar, 4; The Old Temeraire, 4; Frosty Morning, 3; Mrs. Siddons, 3; Returning from Market, 3; Landscape, with Cattle, 3; The Last Inn, 3; Crossing the Ford, 3; Prætor Catchers, 3; Yorick and the Grissette, 3; Stopping Stones, 3; Wood Cutters, 3.

#### OBITUARY.

**EARL DELAWARE.**—George John Sackville-West, fifth Earl of Delaware, died suddenly on Tuesday afternoon, at Knole Park, Sevenoaks. The deceased nobleman was the son of the fourth Earl, by the daughter of Mr. Henry Lyell, of Bourn, Cambridge-shire. He was born in 1791, and succeeded his father in the family honours when he was four years old. The late Earl is succeeded in the family title by his son, Charles Richard Lord West, a General in the Army.

**BARONESS GRAY.**—The death of Baroness Gray, of Gray, in the county of Perth, is announced as having occurred suddenly, at Edinburgh, on the 20th inst. She was Madalena, the eldest of the three daughters of Francis, fifteenth Lord Gray in the Scottish Peerage, who died in 1812, and sister of John, sixteenth Lord, at whose death she succeeded, in default of male issue, to this ancient Peerage, which was conferred, according to Sir Bernard Burke, probably before October, 1437, on Sir Andrew Gray, of Broxmouth. The title now passes to her Ladyship's niece, Margaret, widow of Captain the Hon. David H. Murray, brother of the Earl of Mansfield, and only child of her sister, the late Hon. Margaret Gray, by her marriage with Mr. John Grant, of Kilgraston, North B. air. The Grays have never abandoned their claim to the dignity of premier Baron in the Scottish Peerage; and, in 1789, John, eleventh Lord, publicly protested for precedence over all other Barons at the election, at Holyrood, for Representative Peers of Scotland, and especially against the calling of Lord Forbes before himself; but the question has never been definitely settled.

**SIR ROBERT SHAW, BART.**—The death is announced of Sir Robert Shaw, Bart., which took place on Saturday last. The deceased Baronet was born Sept. 28, 1796, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and, on the death of his father, in March, 1819, succeeded as second Baronet. He was unmarried, and is succeeded in the Baronetcy by his brother, the Right Hon. Frederick Shaw, Recorder of Dublin, born in 1799, and married, in 1819, Thomasine Emily, youngest daughter of the Hon. George Jocelyn, and granddaughter of Robert, first Earl Roden. He represented the city of Dublin in the Parliaments of 1830 and 1831, and sat for the University of Dublin from 1832 to 1845, when he retired through impaired health.

**ADMIRAL DAVIES.**—The death of the oldest officer in the Navy—viz., Admiral Davies—is announced. He was the only survivor of Lord Howe's action on the glorious 1st of June, and died at Bath, on Sunday last, in his ninety-first year. He preserved his senses to the last, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him.

**ADMIRAL GORDON.**—The death of Admiral Robert Gordon is also announced. The deceased Admiral, who was in his seventy-third year, entered the Navy in May, 1810, was with the naval force which co-operated in the conquest of Java, took part in the attack on New Orleans, and was present at the bombardment of Algiers in 1816. For some years he was one of the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House.

**GENERAL GEORGE MONCRIEFF.**—The death of Lieutenant-General George Moncrieff, Provost of St. Andrew's, took place on Monday evening at Edinburgh, where the General was taken seriously ill about three weeks ago. General Moncrieff had a slight attack of paralysis in the early part of December last, and since that time he has not taken any active part in public business.

**BISHOP KYLE.**—On Tuesday Dr. Kyle, Bishop of Germanicia, and Vicar Apostolic of the Romish Church in the northern district of Scotland, died at his residence at Preshome, Fochabers. The deceased had for some months been in infirm health. Bishop Kyle was ordained in 1812, and consecrated in 1823.

**CONSECRATION OF BISHOPS.**—A very imposing ceremony took place in Westminster Abbey on Wednesday morning. Three Bishops were consecrated—Dr. Wordsworth, to the Bishopric of Lincoln; the Rev. J. F. Turner, a son of the late Lord Justice Turner, to the Australian Bishopric of Grafton and Armidale; and the Rev. T. G. Hatchard, late Rector of St. Nicholas, Guildford, to the Bishopric of Mauritius. As a mark of respect to Dr. Wordsworth, both Houses of Convocation attended the service, they having suspended their sittings for that purpose. There was a full choral service. The sermon was preached by Archdeacon Bickersteth.

**A GIANTESSE.**—Among the cabin passengers just arrived from New York by the steam-ship Columbia was Miss Anna Swan, a native of Nova Scotia, but of Scotch descent, who is en route to London and Paris. Miss Swan is stated to be 8ft. 3in. in height, and stout in proportion, weighing about 400lb. She is twenty-one years of age, prepossessing in appearance, having cultivated mind and engaging manners. She intends, previous to returning to New York, to make a short tour through Scotland; and to give a series of lectures, the first of which took place yesterday at St. George's Hall.

**DR. LIVINGSTONE.**—From a letter, dated Zanzibar, Nov. 21, from Mr. Kirk, it appears that Moosa, the leader of the Johanna men who deserted Dr. Livingstone near Lake Nyassa, and who returned to Zanzibar with the false tale of his murder, after having been placed in irons by the Sultan Abdoolla of Johanna for eight months, was delivered to Mr. Kirk for further punishment or liberation. Mr. Kirk informed Sultan Abdoolla's agent that the punishment inflicted on Moosa had anticipated the wish of her Majesty's Government, and that it would now be his duty to liberate him, with a caution not to return to Johanna without the permission of the Sultan.

**ELECTION PETITIONS.**—At Coventry Mr. Eaton and Mr. Staveley III. Q.C., have been declared duly elected; while at Cashel Mr. O'Beirne has been unseated for bribery. At Bodmin the Judge has declared Mr. Gower duly elected, the petitioners to pay all expenses. His Lordship said there was no evidence or reason to believe corrupt practices prevailed at the last election on either side—a statement which was received with slight applause. Major Knox has been unseated for Silgo, on the ground of bribery by his agents, and has been condemned to pay the costs of the petition. The Judge will report that great bribery and corruption prevailed at the last election, and will give the names of the bribers and the bribed.

**ASTONISHING THE INDIANS.**—General Sheridan's recent experience on the plains has satisfied him that the Indian of the period is a disgusting individual, though once in a while one is found who has a bit of drollery. A band of Indians, the General writes, had made a sudden attack on a detachment of his men, who fortunately had a mountain-howitzer mounted on a mule. Not having time to take it off and put it in position, they backed up and blazed away at the Indians. The load was so heavy that mule and all went tumbling downhill towards the savages, who, not understanding that kind of fighting, took to their heels. Afterwards one of them was captured, and when asked why he ran replied: "Me big Injin; not afraid of little guns or big guns; but when white man loads up and fires whole jacksass at Injins me don't know what to do."

**MORE FRAUDS IN THE ADMIRALTY DEPARTMENT.**—Information from several quarters reaches us (says the *Dundee Advertiser*) to the effect that some extraordinary revelations are likely to result from the Admiralty prosecutions instituted last week. Written and verbal statements are pouring in upon the authorities, showing the various ramifications of a system of fraud carried on to an extent of which the public generally have had little idea. Mr. Baxter, the Admiralty Secretary, who is applying himself to the investigation with his usual energy and determination—although subjecting himself to much personal ill-will—seems resolved to be at the bottom of the business. The detectives employed have been most successful in their movements, which have not been confined to London, and the pocket-books and documents seized are said to exhibit as complete a system of public robbery as could be devised.

**CONVOCATION AND THE IRISH CHURCH.**—Both Houses of Convocation have been sitting this week, and on Tuesday the Upper House sent down for the consideration of the Lower Chamber an address to the Queen, which was, like all episcopal productions, very courtly, a little fussy, and with by no means too much meaning in it, but, at any rate, harmless. The dignified clergy in the Lower House had no sooner got it than they began to mend the Bishops' work. Canon Selwyn proposing an addition "praying her Majesty not to assent to" certain measures which it was assumed must be necessary parts of the process of disestablishing and disendowing the Irish Church. A few sensible men like Canon Blakeley, Archdeacon Grant, and the Deans of Ely and Westminster, advised caution; but the discussion was maintained for several hours, and at its close Canon Selwyn's amendment was carried by a large majority. It was pointed out that such a prayer to the Queen would not become necessary unless the Lords and Commons should agree in supporting a disestablishing measure, and that, if those bodies should so agree, then there would be danger in the advice to her Majesty to refuse her assent, and that the Crown might be jeopardised by being brought into a conflict with the clergy of the Lower House. But these arguments had not the slightest weight with the clergy of the Lower House, who appear to be as rash now as their brethren in the days of Laud. To the Dean of Ely's cautious report—"Better jeopardise her (the Queen's) Crown than destroy the Church!"



**A CLERICAL SQUADLE.**—At the Thames Police Court, on Tuesday, the Rev. Hanley Ball, the Curate of the parish church of St. Dunstan, Stepney, applied for a summons against the Rev. Richard Lee, the Rector of the parish of Stepney, whose name has been so often before the public in



